CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

TUESDAY ▸ MAY 5, 2026 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 290 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00

IBC WORLD NEWS
CH ABC
Certified English Daily

"The Ganges flows from Bihar and goes all the way to Ganga Sagar. With the victory in Bengal, the lotus is blooming all the way from Gangotri to Ganga Sagar.
—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

"Thank you to my brothers and sisters in Keralam for a truly decisive mandate. Congratulations to every UDF leader and worker for a hard-fought, well-run campaign. As I said before, Keralam has the talent, Keralam has the potential and now Keralam has a UDF government with a vision to harness both. I look forward to seeing my Keralam family soon.
—Rahul Gandhi, Cong leader

"Do you think this is a victory? It is an immoral victory, not a moral victory. Whatever the Election Commission has done, along with the Central Forces and the PM & Home Minister, is totally illegal. It is loot, loot, loot. We will bounce back.
—Mamata Banerjeei, CM & TMC chairperson

"The people have voted for a new kind of politics. This is not just a victory; it is a mandate for change
—Vijay, Actor-turned politician

www.ibcworldnews.com | BENGALURU ▸ HUBBALLI ▸ MANGALURU ▸ MYSURU ▸ KALABURAGI | cityhilights.news@gmail.com

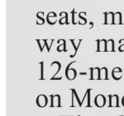
BIGGEST WINNERS

BJP: One more state, one more victory - the party has returned to its winning ways after a brief setback in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls when it failed to reach the majority on its own. A government in West Bengal is a huge shot in the arm for the party which had been trying to carve out a political space for itself in the state. It's also a major ideological boost for BJP, which has usually struggled in the Left-dominant political climate of Bengal. In Assam, BJP gained more ground and is set to clinch nearly 100 seats along with its allies, completely decimating the Gaurav Gogoi-led Congress. NDA now governs across 20 states/UTs out of 28 states and 8 UTs. Of these, BJP is the head of the government in 16.

VIJAY AND HIS MGR MOMENT: "Jana Nayagan" Vijay was the undisputed star of this election with his TVK delivering one of the most stunning performances on debut in India's political history, giving both AIADMK and DMK led factions a run for their money. The actor-turned-politician successfully converted his star power into seats, tapping into the voters' historical tendencies to place their faith into celebrities who take the political plunge.

CONGRESS IN KERALA: Though Congress failed to pose much challenge in other states, it delivered a resounding performance in Kerala. The UDF is leading in over 100 out of the 126 seats in the state with Congress alone ahead in 64 seats. This marks a comeback for the party in the state's power corridors after being in opposition for a decade. It also helps Congress secure a firm foothold in the south, with governments now in 3 states (Telangana and Karnataka being the other too) as it seeks to keep BJP at bay south of the Vindhyas.

MODI-SHAH DUO: The winning jodi of PM Modi and Amit Shah successfully added another key state to BJP's ever-growing portfolio, helping the party gain a firmer foothold in the east. Both Modi and Shah led the BJP's campaign in Bengal from the front in the absence of a strong local face, ensuring the Centre's messaging reached the voters and converted the anti-incumbency sentiment into actual results. Shah personally camped in Bengal in the last two weeks leading up to the high-voltage two phases, overseeing the party's intensive campaign to edge out Mamata.



HIMANTA BISWA SARMA: The Assam chief minister delivered a hattrick for BJP in the northeastern state, fighting the election on a clear cut agenda to target the infiltration issue, which has become a menace in the state. The firebrand leader left no stone unturned and did not shy away from making hardline statements, even controversial at times, to consolidate the core BJP base in the state. Despite raking up some controversies, he helped deliver Assam for BJP for a third time, now with an even bigger mandate.

RANGASWAMY: The AINRC led by chief minister N Rangasswamy easily retained the mandate in Puducherry, with leads in 21 of the 30 seats. The chief minister led the campaign from the front in alliance with BJP, successfully weathering the test of incumbency.

MODI THE NEW DADA OF BENGAL

The political map of India underwent a major political upheaval on Monday, with incumbent Chief Ministers MK Stalin in Tamil Nadu and Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal losing sitting seats in the assembly elections; In Kerala, CPI(M)-led LDF was swept out of power by Congress-led UDF; In Assam and Puducherry, the ruling alliance historically retained their forte.

Saffron storm dethrone Didi

KOLKATA

The moment the BJP has been waiting for has arrived - to capture the throne of Bengal.

In a major political development that could reshape the landscape of the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, the saffron party has secured a landslide victory in the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections for the first time in history, ending Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's 15-year reign and dismantling the Trinamool Congress bastion.

The victory, powered by a staggering and record-breaking voter turnout of 92.47%, signals a seismic shift in the state's identity, as the electorate chose the "Double Engine" promise of Modi over the "Bengali Pride" narrative of the TMC.

Further, ground reports also showed anti-incumbency against the TMC and its supremo Mamata Banerjee, just as it was against the 34-year-rule of the Left Front, led by Communist Party of India (Marxist). The record high voter turnout can also be attributed to the anti-incumbency factor.

7 KEY FACTORS that worked for BJP in Bengal

- Consolidation of Hindu votes
- Aggressive central leadership
- Organisational expansion, booth management
- Anti-incumbency and RG Kar case
- Welfare narrative vs 'appeasement' pitch
- Crackdown on infiltration

BJP: FROM 0 TO SEAT OF POWER

1982:	Contested in 52 seats -	Won	0
2016:	Contested in 294 seats -	Won	3
2021:	Contested in 294 seats -	Won	77
2026:	Contested in 294 seats -	Won	208

BIG LOSERS

- Suvendu Adhikari (BJP) defeated Mamata Banerjee, CM (TMC)
- Subrata Maitra (BJP) defeated Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (INC)
- Saikat Panja (BJP) defeated Siddiqullah Chowdhury (TMC)
- Purnima Chakraborty (BJP) defeated Shashi Panja (TMC)

LEFT left with no bastion in India!

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The 2026 Kerala Assembly election has delivered a historic shift, with the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) defeating the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) after a decade in power.

Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF came to power in Kerala in 2016, and it has become the last Communist Party government in the country.

More than a routine change of power in the state, this political shift signals the twilight of an ideological era. India's Left parties, long associated with communist governance, appear to have lost their final bastion of power for the first time since 1977, closing a long chapter that once saw the Left as a major force shaping the country's state and national politics.

In a wider context, this would leave no major state under Left rule for the first time in 49 years, marking what can be describe as the decimation of organized communism in Indian politics.

West Bengal had a Communist government from 1977 to 2011 — a record 34-year tenure that was ended by Mamata Banerjee-led TMC. The Left bloc had also ruled Tripura from 1993 to 2018, which was decimated by the BJP in 2018. The Left has suffered a steady downfall in Indian politics since the 2009 Lok Sabha elections.

With this election, the 'Red Map' of India has turned blank at the state level for the first time in modern history, closing a chapter that began with revolutionary zeal and endured through democratic persistence.

As counting progressed on Monday, trends indicated a commanding advantage for the UDF across Kerala constituencies. The alliance secured 97-100 seats, comfortably surpassing the halfway mark of 71 required to form the government.

In contrast, the LDF was restricted to approximately 38-41 seats, reflecting a significant erosion of its support base compared to the previous election.

The BJP-led NDA, despite efforts to expand its presence, managed to secure only 3 seats, while a small number of cons. Despite the broader trend, CM Vijayan retained his Dharmadam seat, though with a reduced margin.

3 lotuses bloom in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The BJP registered a notable breakthrough in the 2026 Kerala Assembly elections, winning three seats – Nemom, Kazhakkoottam and Chathannoor – even as the Congress-led UDF swept to power in the state.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar has won Nemom, and with it, delivered the BJP its best result in Kerala. The party's state president reclaimed the Thiruvananthapuram constituency after a decade, polling 48,995 votes (40.35% vote share), the NDA's strongest performance in the state this election cycle. Nemom constituency in Thiruvananthapuram long considered the party's strongest foothold in Kerala. He defeated CPI(M) veteran and minister V Sivankutty by 3,590 votes, while Congress's young leader KS Sabarinathan finished third.

In Kazhakkoottam, another former Union Minister, V Muraleedharan, also emerged victorious, marking another significant gain for the BJP in the Thiruvananthapuram region. He defeated veteran (CPI(M) leader Kadakampally Surendran. Meanwhile, in Chathannoor, BJP candidate BB Gopakumar clinched the seat, defeating R Rajendran of CPI in a tightly contested race.

BJP STORMS KERALA CAPITAL

NAME	SEAT	MARGIN
Rajeev Chandrasekhar	Nemom	4,978
V Muraleedharan	Kazhakkoottam	428
Gopakumar	Chathannur	4,913

13 out of 21 LDF ministers lose in UDF wave

Thirteen members of the 21-member LDF cabinet led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan tasted defeat in the Kerala Assembly elections as the ruling front suffered a major setback across the state. Of the 21 ministers, only the Chief Minister, K Rajan (Revenue), GR Anil (Civil Supplies), KN Balagopal (Finance), P Prasad (Agriculture), and Saji Cherian (Cultural Affairs) emerged victorious.

Winners

- Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan (Dharmadam)
- Revenue Minister K Rajan (Ollur)
- Civil Supplies Minister GR Anil (Nedumangad)
- Finance Minister KN Balagopal (Kottarakkara)
- Agriculture Minister P Prasad (Cherthala)
- Cultural Affairs Min Saji Cherian (Chengannur)

Losers

- Health Minister Veena George (Aranmula)
- Devaswom Min VN Vasavan (Ettumanoor)
- Education Minister V Sivankutty (Nemom)
- Transport Min Ganesh Kumar (Pathanapuram)
- Industries Minister P Rajeev (Kalamassery)
- Water Resources Min Roshy Augustine (Idukki)
- Sports Minister V Abdurahiman (Tirur)
- LSG Minister MB Rajesh (Thrithala)
- Forest Minister OR Kelu (Mananthavady)
- Excise Minister AK Saseendran (Elathur)
- Animal Husbandry Min Chinchu (Chadayamangalam)
- Ports Min Kadannappally (Kannur)

VIJAY FLIPS THE TN SCRIPT

CHENNAI

Actor-politician Vijay, who made his political debut with his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), secured a historic win in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly election Monday, breaking the entrenched Dravidian binary stretching back nearly six decades and confirming 'thalapathy' - 'commander' in Tamil - as the next big cinema-politics crossover.

The TVK won 107 seats in the 234-member Assembly. And one of those seats - Virugampakkam, which falls within the Chennai Lok Sabha constituency - will be held by R Sabarinathan.

But who is R Sabarinathan? He is the 30-year-old son of Vijay's driver and will follow the actor in making history in Tamil Nadu politics, adding his name to a list of incoming TVK MLAs with debut election wins. And he beat out the DMK's Prabhakara Raja and the AIADMK's Virugai Ravi - who won the seat in 2021 and 2016 respectively - by over 22,000 votes.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in TN high-profile DMK leaders fell by the dozens as the ruling party slipped to an embarrassing defeat. The list of names beaten included the biggest of all - Chief Minister MK Stalin, who was dumped out of his Kolathur stronghold by the TVK's VS Babu. However, Stalin's son, Udhayanidhi Stalin, fared better.

As for Vijay, the likely incoming Chief Minister, he enjoyed a hat-trick of wins today - his TVK swept the state and he won from Perambur (beating the DMK's RD Shekar by nearly 50,000 votes) and Tiruchirappalli (East) (beating the DMK's S Irudayaraj by around 23,000 votes.

BIGGEST LOSERS

MAMATA BANERJEE

The TMC supremo proved to be the biggest loser of this election with her party losing the only state where it was in power, raising fresh questions over its future and political relevance. With little to no presence beyond West Bengal, Mamata will have to contend with sitting in the opposition benches for at least the next five years. A loss of election also erodes her credibility as a viable opposition face to challenge the BJP, at least for now. Yet, given her street-fighter style of politics and deep-rooted connect in Bengal, Banerjee is far from being written off.

MK STALIN

The Tamil Nadu chief minister could not ensure another term in power despite taking BJP head-on as he asserted autonomy for his state. Stalin's consolidation of power and lack of structural reforms in health and education sectors dealt a serious blow to his alliance in this election. And with Vijay's rise as the new power centre in Tamil Nadu, DMK under Stalin will now face an uphill battle to maintain relevance and sustain the Dravidian legacy in the state.

PINARAYI VIJAYAN

The Left stalwart in Kerala could not last beyond a decade in the revolving door politics of the state. His government was weighed down by mounting anti-incumbency, allegations of corruption, the challenge posed by newer players such as BJP as well as criticism over the concentration of power within CPM.

GAURAV GOGOI

The Congress leader who was trying to pose a challenge to Himanta and sustain the legacy of his father, Tarun Gogoi, proved a non-starter in the end with the grand old party relegated to the sidelines in the state. Despite taking the fight to Himanta, Gogoi could not match up to BJP's deep booth-level machinery. He also failed to shrug off the dynastic tag bestowed on him by Himanta. To add insult to injury, Gogoi lost his assembly election debut from Jorhat.

AIADMK

The AIADMK faction, under Edappadi K Palaniswami, continues to lose relevance in Tamil Nadu in the post-Jayalalithaa reality. The party has seen multiple splits since the death of Jayalalithaa and is no longer seen as a credible alternative to the DMK. Despite anti-incumbency, the AIADMK failed to make credible gains in this election and has now ceded its space to newer players like Vijay's TVK. Internal squabbles and alliance missteps also hurt the Palaniswami-led outfit in this election.

OPPOSITION BLOC

Finally, it was the broader opposition which suffered the biggest setback in the poll. Since BJP's Lok Sabha tumble in 2024, the opposition has collectively failed to capitilise on its brief momentum and convert it into credible gains. The Congress failed to win Haryana in 2024 despite strong anti-incumbency. Later, the MVA failed to wrest Maharashtra from BJP-Shiv Sena combine. The AAP lost Delhi to BJP in 2025. The Mahagathbandhan was brushed aside by NDA in Bihar later the same year. And now, BJP has wrested control of West Bengal from Mamata, who was seen as the strongest symbol of defiance to the NDA.

Gogoi swept away in Himanta tsunami in Assam

DISPUR

The ruling NDA stormed into power in Assam for the third time in a row after securing majority with the alliance winning 102 seats, more than the halfway mark of 68 in the 126-member Assembly, on Monday.

The Congress-led Opposition alliance failed to stop a hat-trick for the BJP-led NDA. With the Congress was able to secure only 21 seats, Assam poll in-charge Bhanwar Jitendra Singh stepped down from his post, taking "full responsibility" for poll debacle. Assam Chief Minister and BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma (1,27,151) defeated Congress' Bidisha Neog (37,717) by a margin of 89,434 votes Jalukbari seat.

Sarma thanked the people and urged "good" Hindu Congress leaders to join the BJP to secure the state's future and fight the "aggression" of "Bangladeshi Miyas".

FAILS TO RECLAIM LEGACY

Gaurav Gogoi came to Jorhat carrying his father's legacy, his party's hopes and the title of chief ministerial candidate. He left having lost by more than 23,000 votes to BJP incumbent Hitendra Nath Goswami, and with the Congress headed for its third consecutive defeat in Assam. The result is a personal blow as much as a political one. The 43-year-old three-time MP and Deputy Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha had staked his state-level debut on Jorhat, a seat his opponent has contested in every assembly election since 1991. Goswami, who represents a prominent local family and commands deep-rooted goodwill in the constituency, switched to the BJP in 2014 and has held the seat ever since.

ASSAM

PARTIES	WON
BJP	101
INC	15
BOPF	0
AGP	0
AIUDF	0

WEST BENGAL

PARTIES	WON
BJP	163
TMC	58
LEFT	2
AGP	0
AIUDF	0

KERALA

PARTIES	WON
UDF	98
LDF	35
NDA	3
CPI	8
OTHERS	4

TAMIL NADU

PARTIES	WON
TVK	107
DMK	74
AIADMK	53
INC	5
OTHERS	4

PUDUCHERRY

PARTIES	WON
AINRC	18
CONG	6
TVK	2
IND	3
OTHER	3

STATE	TOTAL SEATS
ASSAM	126
WEST BENGAL	294
KERALA	140
TAMIL NADU	234
PUDUCHERRY	30

QUICK READ

Cubbon Park Metro Station reopens after temporary closure

CH NEWS, Bengaluru Namma Metro has reopened the Cubbon Park Metro Station after a temporary closure caused by a power outage. The metro operator confirmed the development through its official X account, stating that services at the station resumed on Monday after electricity supply was restored. The station had remained shut for a brief period due to the disruption, affecting commuter movement in the central business district. Authorities had earlier assured passengers that operations would restart once the issue was resolved. With power restored, normal services have now resumed, bringing relief to daily

Learning art nurtures children's talent, says Mangala Nadig

CH NEWS, Bengaluru Renowned poetess Mangala M Nadig said that learning art is a valuable gift that nurtures children's talent alongside formal education. Speaking at the valedictory of an art development camp organised by Kalakadamba Art Center at Manoranjini Hall in Chikkalasandra, she stressed that equal importance must be given to art and academics to preserve cultural heritage. Nadig praised the centre's efforts in training children across disciplines such as Yakshagana, drama, bhava, bhakti, folk songs, dance and karate within just 20 days, enabling them to perform confidently on stage.

'MOTI' initiative promotes community dog adoption in city

CH NEWS, Bengaluru A walkathon with community dogs marked the launch of the 'MOTI' (Movement of Trust & Inclusion) initiative at Cubbon Park, promoting adoption and coexistence. Organised by the Bengaluru Central City Corporation, the programme saw participation from children, residents, NGOs and animal lovers. Four Indie dogs were adopted during the event, while officials conducted vaccinations and distributed adoption kits containing food, collars and bowls. Additional Commissioner Daljit Kumar inaugurated the initiative, urging citizens to support animals during summer. Officials K Ranganath and Hemanth Sharan flagged off the walkathon.

BDA to e-auction 75 prime sites across Bengaluru layouts from May 11

E-auction to unlock recovered land, meet demand from buyers and businesses

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has announced the e-auction of 75 prime residential and commercial plots across the city, in a move aimed at unlocking land value and addressing demand from homebuyers and small enterprises.

The auction process will commence on May 11, with registrations open until May 22, 5 pm. Live e-bidding will be conducted in phases on May 25 and 26. The sites, spread across prominent layouts, are expected to draw strong interest due to their location and legal clarity.

According to the notification, plots are located in key BDA layouts such as Anjanapura Township, Arkavathy Layout, Banashankari 6th Stage, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout and Sir M Visvesvaraya Layout, among others. Many of these sites were recently recovered by the authority following eviction of encroachments or favourable court rulings, and are now being brought back into the formal market.

All plots will be offered on an "as is where is" basis, requiring bidders to accept the current condition of the land. Officials emphasised that prospective buyers should conduct due diligence, including site visits and verification of layout specifics, before participating in the auction.

The plots vary in size and category, catering to both residential and commercial needs. Upset prices begin at approximately Rs 64,000 per square metre and exceed Rs 1 lakh per square metre in premium locations. To ensure a structured bidding process, the minimum increment has been fixed at Rs 500 per square metre.BDA officials said the initiative is part of a broader strategy to monetise reclaimed land while expanding access to authorised plots within planned layouts. The move is also expected to enhance transparency in land allotment through an online, competitive bidding mechanism.Interested bidders can access detailed information, including layout-wise site lists, eligibility criteria and bidding procedures, on the BDA's official website. Helpline numbers have also been provided to assist applicants. The upcoming auction is likely to attract a mix of individual buyers, investors and small business owners seeking legally compliant land parcels in well-developed areas of Bengaluru.

CCB Women Protection Unit Busts Prostitution Racket in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The CCB Women Protection Unit has arrested four people, including two women, for allegedly running a prostitution racket from rented houses across Bengaluru. Four women were rescued during coordinated raids conducted at multiple locations.

Acting on credible inputs from informants received on different dates, officials found that prostitution activities were being carried out in rented premises at Padmanabhanagar and RK Layout under Subramanyapura Police Station limits, Sundarnagar in Gokula area under Jalahalli Police Station limits, and NGEF Layout under Jnanabharathi Police Station limits.

BDA seeks solution to Turahalli forest buffer zone deadlock

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has written to the forest department seeking an urgent joint meeting to resolve the long-pending Turahalli forest buffer zone issue, which has stalled construction on hundreds of legally allotted residential sites.

In its communication, BDA highlighted that several plots in Banashankari 6th Phase layout, spread across Blocks 1 to 11, fall within the notified buffer zone of the Turahalli Forest. As a result, the forest department has denied construction permissions, leaving plot owners in limbo despite having purchased sites through official allotments.

A senior BDA official said that nearly 1,300 sites were initially affected by the buffer zone restrictions, creating significant hardship for families who had invested their savings. Following joint surveys and coordinated efforts, about 1,000 sites have since been cleared and removed from the buffer zone, allowing construction to begin. However, around 300 sites, covering approximately 18 acres along the forest boundary, remain unresolved.The authority noted that a drone survey of the forest and adjoining layouts was conducted on January 10, 2026, in coordination with forest officials. Based on the findings, a revised layout map identifying buffer zone sites was prepared and submitted to the department.With clearer data now available, BDA is pushing for a structured legal framework to address the remaining cases. It has requested the forest conservator to convene a high-level meeting involving senior officials, including additional chief secretaries from the forest, environment and related departments.

Bengaluru to get immersive 'Museum of Brain and Mind' soon

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) is set to unveil India's first large-scale neuroscience-led immersive museum, aimed at helping visitors understand the complex relationship between the brain and the mind.Titled the 'Museum of Brain and Mind', the project is built around the idea of helping individuals understand "why you are the way you are." The museum will bridge the gap between the brain as a physical organ and the mind as the centre of cognition, emotion and behaviour.Expected to be completed within a few months, the museum will take visitors through a continuous, integrated journey rather than standalone exhibits. It will feature zones exploring brain anatomy, memory, decision-making, emotional processes, human evolution, and neurological and psychiatric disorders along with their treatments.The experience will span the entire human life cycle—from prenatal development to old age—while also examining how the brain interacts with society and technology. Visitors will encounter over 50 interactive installations, including sensor-based interfaces, immersive simulations, audio-visual storytelling, gaming modules and visual art displays.According to Tagbin CEO Saurav Bhaik, the aim is to translate complex clinical and research knowledge from NIMHANS into accessible, engaging experiences for the public. The exhibits are designed not just to inform but also to evoke emotional understanding.The museum seeks to educate people on brain science, reduce stigma around mental health, encourage early awareness of disorders and foster empathy through immersive depictions of real-life conditions and therapies. It will also house what is described as one of the largest collections of preserved human brains, adding research value to its public interface.

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) has commissioned private firm Tagbin to develop a large-scaleneuroscience-led immersive museum in the city, valued at approximately Rs 35 crore.

Tagbin has executed several large-scale experiential projects across India, including an aerospace initiative for Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in Bengaluru and the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, along with smart tourism platforms in Ladakh.

Drawing inputs from neuroscience, psychiatry, psychology, rehabilitation medicine and traditional knowledge systems, the project is among the most interdisciplinary museum initiatives in India.

VARUNA MITRA HELPLINE BRACES FOR SURGE AS DROUGHT FEARS RISE

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

With over 50 lakh calls logged in the past three years, Karnataka's farmer support line Varuna Mitra is preparing for a sharp spike in queries amid concerns of erratic rainfall and a possible drought year.

Operated by the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), the helpline currently handles 4,000 to 5,000 calls daily. Officials expect this number to rise to nearly 15,000 calls a day in June, as farmers seek weather guidance during the crucial sowing season.

Launched in 2011, the service provides medium-term weather forecasts using inputs from ISRO Space Applications Centre. It saw record usage in 2023 when Karnataka experienced drought-like conditions due to deficient rainfall.

KSNDMC Director M.S. Divakara said weather conditions remained neutral through April and May this year, but an El Niño pattern may develop soon. "Historically, El Niño years have meant drought and below-normal rainfall for Karnataka. We will have more clarity after the India Meteorological Department issues its updated forecast post-May 15," he said.

The helpline operates with a compact team of around 18 staff, who collectively answer nearly one call every minute. To ensure efficiency, caller details such as name and location are recorded quickly, keeping interactions brief but informative.

Officials note that frequent callers often build familiarity with the staff, reflecting the service's reach and reliability. Many farmers, drawing on their own experience, call to validate their observations about cloud cover, wind patterns and expected rainfall.

Beyond weather forecasts, the helpline plays a broader advisory role. Linked to the World Bank-supported REWARD project, it provides guidance on crop selection, irrigation timing and fertiliser use across all 31 districts of the state. Experts also assist farmers with pest-related issues, connecting them with local agriculture and horticulture officers when needed.

A 2020 KSNDMC climate report identified over 88 lakh hectares in North Interior Karnataka as drought-prone, underscoring the growing importance of such services.As climate variability intensifies, Varuna Mitra remains a critical lifeline, helping farmers make informed decisions in uncertain conditions.

Labour dept to spend over Rs 8.7K per school kit for workers' children

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Labour Department has approved a proposal to provide school kits worth over Rs 8,700 each to children of registered construction workers, reviving a welfare scheme that had earlier been scrapped amid controversy.The initiative will be implemented through the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board, targeting around 1.3 lakh beneficiaries across the state. With each kit estimated at Rs 8,736 or more, the total cost of procurement and distribution is expected to touch Rs 115.8 crore. The State Cabinet cleared the proposal last week.The scheme had been discontinued in 2021 following allegations of inflated pricing and irregularities during its earlier rollout. Its revival comes after renewed demands from legislators and trade unions, according to Labour Minister Santosh Lad.Each kit will include 23 items designed for students from Classes 1 to 12, with separate categories for primary, middle and high school levels. The contents range from textbooks and grammar guides to thermos flasks, play dough, and sets of comic books in Kannada and English.To ensure procurement standards, the department plans to route the process through Mysore Sales International Ltd (MSIL), which will oversee tendering and supply. Officials said the welfare board will fund the scheme, while MSIL will manage execution to maintain quality and transparency.

The proposal also seeks a 4(g) exemption under procurement rules, allowing the department to bypass conventional tender procedures and mandate specific suppliers, including the "lekhak" brand for books. Authorities argue this will help standardise quality across kits.

Auto driver dies after assault over seat dispute, accused held

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 26-year-old autorickshaw driver died after being assaulted by an acquaintance in Padarayanapura, with police converting the case to murder following his death.

The deceased, Mubarak, a resident of 7th Cross in Padarayanapura, had been undergoing treatment for severe head injuries since May 1. The accused, Tabrez (46), has been arrested.According to police, the incident stemmed from a dispute over an autorickshaw seat. Mubarak had accused Tabrez of taking his vehicle's seat, leading to a heated argument between the two around 10am. The altercation soon turned physical, with both men assaulting each other before local residents intervened and separated them.However, the situation escalated later in the day. Around 12.30pm, Tabrez allegedly attacked Mubarak again, this time using a wooden piece.

UPHILL TASK FOR GBA

Storm debris lingers as Bengaluru struggles to clear fallen trees

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Days after a sudden thunderstorm lashed the city, large sections of Bengaluru continue to grapple with fallen trees and obstructed footpaths, even as authorities press on with clearing operations.

The intense spell of rain, which dumped nearly 11 cm within an hour last week, uprooted hundreds of trees across the city. According to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), a total of 476 trees and 1,171 branches fell between April 29 and May 3. While officials claim that 444 trees and 1,090 branches have been cleared, ground realities suggest otherwise.Across several localities, chopped trunks and heaps of branches continue to block pavements, forcing pedestrians onto busy roads. Authorities said their immediate focus was on restoring vehicular movement by clearing arterial roads, with footpath clearance to follow in subsequent phases.In Malleswaram, residents flagged a dangerously hanging branch that continues to pose a risk to passers-by. On 8th Main Road, a fallen tree has been cut but remains piled up on a newly constructed footpath, obstructing access to an apartment complex and a bank. "Children, students and senior citizens use this stretch daily. Now they are forced to walk on the road," a resident said.Similar concerns have been raised in Basavanagudi, where large tree trunks remain uncleared along BP Wadia Road, also damaging footpath railings.GBA Deputy Conservator of Forests G.K. Sudarshan said around 30 teams, including rapid response units and private contractors, have been deployed across five city corporations. "We had 28 teams for canopy management and were expanding to 66 when the storm hit," he said, adding that staff shortages have slowed the response.

Four men assault constables during patrol, two arrested

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Two police constables were allegedly assaulted by a group of four men during a late-night patrol in Akashvani Layout in Dasarahalli, with two of the accused now in custody.According to a complaint filed by constable Rudrappa M Hanumar (36), he and his colleague Hanumanth Alagundi (29) were on patrol around 3am when they spotted four men consuming alcohol inside an SUV, identified as a Mitsubishi Pajero, on Akashvani Layout Main Road. When the constables asked the group to disperse, one of the men allegedly began abusing them.

As the situation escalated, Rudrappa went to retrieve a lathi from his bike. The four men then reportedly stepped out of the vehicle, overpowered both constables and assaulted them. The complaint states that the accused pushed the policemen to the ground, tore their uniforms, and repeatedly slapped and kicked them.

QUICK READ

Online applications open for ITI admissions

Vijayapura

Online applications have been invited for admission to NCVT affiliated trades in ten Government Industrial Training Institutes in Vijayapura for August 2026 academic session Eligible candidates who have passed SSLC can apply through CITE Karnataka portal from April 27 to May 8 A total of 518 seats are available across eight conventional trades and six Industry 4.0 trades under district nodal ITI Candidates who have passed failed or studied up to 8th or 10th standard are also eligible for Welder trade The institute has urged applicants to complete registration before deadline and check official notifications for further details and guidance.

LPG price hike sparks political criticism

Yadgir

Karnataka Congress leader Dr. Bhimanna Meti has strongly criticised the recent increase in commercial LPG cylinder prices, calling it an anti-people decision by the Central government He alleged that the price hike was deliberately implemented after Assembly elections in several states accusing the government of avoiding unpopular moves before polls Meti said the BJP-led Centre is favouring big industrialists while neglecting common people He warned that the decision has increased financial pressure on hotels and small businesses indirectly affecting consumers He further said citizens will respond against what he described as deceptive governance and rising economic burden in coming days.

Kavita R Desai selected for State Basava award

Raichur

Kavita R Desai, Taluk President of the Karnataka State Government Women Employees' Association, has been selected for the State-Level Basava Award in recognition of her service and contributions in the Revenue Department and her active role in the employees' association at taluk level The announcement was made by Dr. Pooja Ramesh, President of Vasantha Lakshmi Foundation and Sharan Seva Samiti Bengaluru The award will be presented during Basava Jayanti celebrations on May 10 at Ramanashree Auditorium Sanjaynagar Bengaluru On the same occasion Mahadev Patil Mulimani and Devadurga taluk General Secretary Devadurga .

High Command to resolve party issue: Eshwar Khandre

Eshwar Khandre says, party issue will be resolved internally by High Command, urging unity and discipline among leaders.

BIDAR

Karnataka Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre has stated that the ongoing internal issue within the party will be decided by the High Command, stressing that it should not be discussed publicly.He said senior leaders including D.K. Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah, and Mallikarjun Kharge have already issued clear instructions that party matters must remain within internal forums and not be raised in the media.Khandre emphasized the importance of discipline and unity within the organisation, adding that all discussions related to the issue should be handled internally. He noted that a High Command meeting is expected soon, where a final decision will be taken to resolve the matter.He further stated that party workers and leaders at all levels, including district units, have been directed to remain united and abide by the decision once it is announced. According to him, maintaining collective responsibility is essential for the smooth functioning of the party.The minister also pointed out that similar remarks or situations in the past were not considered serious issues, questioning the sudden concern being raised now. He reiterated that the party leadership is committed to resolving the matter through proper internal channels.Party leaders have collectively stressed that unity and discipline are essential at this stage, and that internal differences should not be allowed to affect public perception. The High Command's intervention is expected to bring clarity and settle the issue in the coming days, reinforcing organisational cohesion.

Kalaburagi witnesses grand Urs celebration with massive Sandal procession at Khwaja Banda Nawaz Dargah promoting unity.

URS PROCESSION UNITES DEVOTES IN GRAND CELEBRATION

KALABURAGI

The historic city of Kalaburagi witnessed a spiritually vibrant celebration as the 622nd Urs of Khwaja Banda Nawaz Dargah was observed with a grand Sandal procession, drawing thousands of devotes from across Karnataka and neighbouring regions.

Devotees gathered at the revered shrine from early morning to offer prayers, with special rituals held later at Mahboob Gulshan Garden. The Sandal procession began in the afternoon in a ceremonial manner, led by Karnataka State Waqf Board Chairman and Sajjada Nashin Dr. Hafiz Syed Mohammad Ali Al Hussaini, along with religious leaders, ulemas, and members of the Dargah committee.

The procession featured traditional musical bands, devotional chants, and decorated Sandal structures adorned with flowers. Devotees chanted "Ya Khwaja Banda Nawaz" as the procession moved through key routes such as Jagat Circle, Super Market, and Haft Gumbaz before culminating at the Dargah premises.

Upon completion, special prayers (dua) and religious rituals were conducted, marking the conclusion of the procession. The event reflected strong themes of devotion, unity, and communal harmony, with participation from people of different faiths highlighting Kalaburagi's cultural inclusiveness.

Prominent members of the Khwaja Banda Nawaz family, including senior religious figures and Sajjada Nashins, were present during the occasion. Their presence added to the spiritual significance of the annual event.

Extensive security arrangements were made by the city police, including traffic diversions, ensuring smooth and peaceful conduct of the procession without disruptions.

The Urs celebrations, held every year, continue to attract large gatherings of devotees and pilgrims. This year's event once again showcased a blend of deep-rooted tradition, devotion, and cultural unity, reinforcing the Dargah's importance as a major spiritual centre in the region.

Agateerth village faces severe drinking water crisis

SURAPURA

Residents of Agateerth village under Agni Gram Panchayat in Surapura taluk of Yadgir district are facing a worsening drinking water shortage, forcing many families to travel long distances for basic needs.

With borewells and open wells completely dried up, villagers are struggling to access water for daily consumption. Women in the village reported that they are walking nearly 2 km to nearby Agni village to fetch water, often facing difficulties and resistance upon arrival.

MB Patil comments on election trends statement

Karnataka Minister M.B. Patil comments on recent election trends, predicts shifting political dynamics across states including West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam, and Kerala outcomes.

VIJAYAPURA

Karnataka Minister M. B. Patil made sharp political remarks in Vijayapura on Monday while speaking to reporters, reflecting on recent by-election results and wider electoral trends across India.

Referring to by-elections in Bagalkot and Davangere, he said the outcomes had validated his earlier political observations. He remarked that leaders such as B. Y. Vijayendra and Basangouda Patil Yatnal would not remain active in the same political space after the elections, and claimed that the results had proven his prediction correct.

Patil also commented on national political developments, expressing surprise over the reported electoral setback of Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal, noting her long tenure in power. He described the outcome as unexpected given her established political presence in the state.

He further referred to Tamil Nadu election results, stating that they were surprising and indicated a shift in voter sentiment. According to him, a youth-driven wave led by actor-politician Vijay and his party Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam had influenced young voters and women, contributing to a political change in the state.

On other state-level outcomes, Patil said the Bharatiya Janata Party had secured a clear victory in Assam. In contrast, he claimed that in Kerala, the Congress and its allies were positioned to form the government.His remarks come amid ongoing political analysis of recent election outcomes across several states, highlighting changing voter preferences and emerging political realignments. The statements have added to the broader discussion on shifting political dynamics in the country following the latest electoral results.

Unregulated parking hurts Vijayapura public image

VIJAYAPURA

The growing issue of footpath encroachment and unregulated parking in Vijayapura city is creating major inconvenience for pedestrians and affecting the city's public image, especially in high-traffic areas like the main bus stand and tourist spots.

Near the central bus stand, footpaths have been heavily occupied by street vendors and shop extensions, leaving little or no space for pedestrians. Commuters, including students, elderly citizens, and tourists, are often forced to walk on busy roads due to blocked pathways, increasing the risk of accidents and safety concerns.

The situation has raised questions about the effectiveness of the Vijayapura municipal authorities in controlling encroachments. Residents have expressed frustration that even the area opposite the main bus stand remains poorly managed, despite being a key entry point for visitors to the city.

A similar problem is visible near the historic Gol Gumbaz, one of Vijayapura's most prominent tourist attractions. The surroundings are frequently affected by haphazard parking, with vehicles occupying footpaths and open spaces meant for visitors. This has led to dissatisfaction among tourists, who often leave with a negative impression of the city's civic management.

Local citizens and visitors have called for strict enforcement measures, including removal of encroachments, proper parking zoning, and restoration of pedestrian walkways. Many believe that the issue persists due to weak monitoring and lack of accountability from civic authorities.

There is a growing demand for decisive action to ensure urban discipline in key public areas. Residents argue that as a city of historical and cultural importance, Vijayapura must maintain clean, safe, and accessible public spaces.

Authorities are being urged to take immediate steps to reclaim footpaths and regulate parking to improve both safety and the overall image of the city for residents and tourists alike.

Gurumathkal residents demand urgent water supply action

GURUMATHKAL

Residents of Killanakera village in Gurumathkal Assembly constituency of Yadgir district staged a strong protest over the severe drinking water shortage, highlighting the worsening living conditions in the area.Villagers carried empty pots and beat drums while marching through the streets in a symbolic demonstration to draw attention to their daily struggle for water. They alleged that the drinking water supply in the village has been highly irregular, forcing residents to suffer for even basic needs.

Tikota agriculture shift boosts grape cultivation success

VIJAYAPURA

Vijayapura district, once widely known as a drought-prone region with scarce rainfall and extreme summer conditions, is now witnessing a major agricultural transformation driven by farmers in Tikota. Inspired by the vision of Sri Siddeshwara Mahaswamiji, local cultivators have successfully grown premium California-grade grapes and dedicated their first harvest to the revered saint.For decades, the region struggled with water scarcity despite being historically referred to as the "Punjab of the South" due to its river systems. However, poor water utilization forced many farmers to migrate in search of livelihood. The vision of Sri Siddeshwara Mahaswamiji emphasised that channeling water from the Sahyadri region could turn Vijayapura into a fertile agricultural zone similar to California.Between 2013 and 2018, major irrigation projects such as Mulawad, Tubachi-Babaleshwar, Chimmalagi, and Tidagundi canal extensions brought over 100 TMC of water to the district. These initiatives significantly improved irrigation coverage and reduced the severity of summer conditions, making large-scale farming more feasible.Building on this progress, farmers under the Krishnaveni Farmers Producer Organization (FPO) have introduced the AARA-36 grape variety, widely cultivated in California. The project is being implemented in collaboration with Sahyadri Farms, Nashik, under agricultural expert guidance. Currently, cultivation spans about 100 acres, with expansion plans targeting up to 1,000 acres.

Progressive farmers, including horticulture graduates, are leading the initiative and working collectively to improve productivity and market access. Farmers expect their income to triple due to the adoption of this premium variety and improved post-harvest systems.The initiative also aims to establish processing and value-addition facilities in Vijayapura, strengthening the entire supply chain. Farmers say the project is not only about agriculture but also about fulfilling the vision of transforming a drought-hit region into a thriving agricultural hub through water management, innovation, and collective effort.

Cong women members demand Women's Reservation Bill implementation

KALABURAGI

The District Women's Congress in Kalaburagi launched a letter-writing campaign, demanding the immediate implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill and urging the central government to act without further delay.

Hundreds of women party workers gathered near the post office close to the railway station and sent letters addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In their representation, they called for the early enforcement of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam and also demanded separate reservation for women belonging to Other Backward Classes.

District Women's Congress President Renuka Singe alleged that although the bill has been passed, its implementation is being delayed due to the pending delimitation and census process. She described the delay as politically motivated and criticized the government's assurances as misleading.

She further accused the ruling party of failing to ensure equal rights for women, especially those from Dalit and backward communities. She also challenged women leaders of the BJP to publicly explain the effectiveness of government welfare schemes for women.

The protest saw participation from several local leaders and activists, including Sangeeta Patil, Anuradha Ninne, Geeta Mudgal, Jayashree Chintapalli, Lakshmi Sarasambkar, Shahnaz Akhtar, and Sehera Banu. Participants said the campaign was aimed at strengthening democratic pressure on the government.

KALABURAGI COCOPEAT UNIT

District officials praise youth-led agro startup model

KALABURAGI

A youth-led cocopeat production unit in Kalaburagi has received appreciation from the district administration for its innovative agro-based entrepreneurship model, highlighting the growing potential of rural startups in the Kalyana Karnataka region.The facility was recently inspected by outgoing Deputy Commissioner Fauzia Taranum and Joint Director of Agriculture Samad Patel, who reviewed its operations and commended the initiative for its forward-thinking approach. They praised the young entrepreneurs for adopting a "job creator" mindset instead of depending on traditional employment opportunities.The unit is being led by local youth entrepreneur Ramesh Swamy under Igala Exim, with export operations supported by partners through Nisarga Roots and Ashtam Trading. The enterprise focuses on producing high-quality cocopeat, a growing agricultural and horticultural input used widely in soil conditioning and farming applications.Officials noted that the project has strong export potential, with planned markets including the United States, United Kingdom, Middle East, and the Netherlands. The initiative is being seen as a step forward in positioning Kalaburagi as an emerging hub for agro-based exports.Authorities highlighted that the project follows a "waste-to-wealth" model by converting coconut husk waste into a valuable commercial product, thereby promoting sustainability and rural entrepreneurship. The cocopeat industry, traditionally concentrated in southern states like Tamil Nadu and Kerala, is now expanding into northern Karnataka due to such innovative efforts.Officials also assured continued institutional support for similar ventures across the region. They pointed out that successful local initiatives like the "Kalaburagi Rotti" brand demonstrate how indigenous products can gain national and global recognition.

Art of Living programme ends at Raichur prison

RAICHUR

A week-long Sudarshan Kriya programme conducted by the Art of Living Foundation concluded at the District Prison in Raichur, as part of its Prison SMART initiative aimed at improving mental well-being among inmates.The programme, based on breathing techniques developed by Sri Ravi Shankar, focused on helping undertrial prisoners manage stress, improve emotional stability, enhance sleep quality, and develop inner peace through structured meditation and breathing practices.More than 100 undertrial inmates participated in the sessions, which were conducted by trained volunteers of the foundation. The initiative was designed to support rehabilitation by promoting positive mental health and behavioural transformation among prisoners.During the valedictory function, members of the SMART Development District Committee, including Ramesh Jain, Kishore Konda, Saraswati Kilkile, Srinivas Sagar, and Chandrashekhar, were present. Fruits were also distributed to inmates as part of the closing ceremony.

QUICK READ

No Ceasefire in War Against People, Says Thinker Shivasundar

Koppal

Senior thinker Shivasundar has strongly criticized the policies of the Government of India, alleging that there is no ceasefire in what he described as a continuous struggle imposed on citizens. He made these remarks during an awareness program held in Koppal. Speaking at a literary gathering organized at Sahitya Bhavan under a collective platform of like-minded organizations, Shivasundar expressed concern over what he termed disturbing developments in the country. He argued that certain political forces are attempting to undermine the core principles of the Constitution and called for stronger public awareness and resistance. He stated that while wars across the world often witness ceasefires, the policies introduced by the government led by Narendra Modi have resulted in a continuous series of challenges affecting citizens.

Bengal Voters Back BJP for National Security: Shailendra Beldale

Bidar

Shailendra Beldale, BJP state secretary and MLA from Bidar South, has stated that voters in West Bengal supported the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with a strong mandate, citing concerns over national security and governance. Addressing the media in Bidar, Beldale said that the election results across five states indicate growing trust among voters in the BJP's leadership. He claimed that in West Bengal, voters rejected the ng-standing rule of the All India Trinamool Congress led by Mamata Banerjee, accusing it of misgovernance and divisive politics. He alleged that the previous administration had encouraged illegal infiltration for electoral gains and weakened administrative systems.

Infrastructure Development Works Launched

Vijayapura

Several infrastructure development projects were inaugurated in Vijayapura on May 4, marking a step toward improving urban facilities and public amenities. The initiatives were launched by District In-charge Minister M. B. Patil. The development works began in the morning with the inauguration of a road improvement project from Gol Gumbaz to Hakim Chowk. The project, undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs 2 crore, aims to enhance connectivity and ease traffic movement in one of the city's prominent stretches. Officials stated that the upgraded road will significantly benefit daily commuters and local businesses. In another major initiative, development works were launched in Ward No. 18 with an allocation of Rs 2 crore.

Karaga Mahotsav Concludes at Historic Draupathamma Temple

The grand Karaga Mahotsav at the historic Draupathamma Temple in Hoskote concluded with traditional rituals and a vibrant procession through the city

HOSKOTE

The festival began in the early hours of Saturday with priest Kiran leading the ceremonial procession. Carrying a sacred floral garland, he set out from the Draupathamma Dharmarayaswamy Temple in the Upper Town at around 1 am. The procession moved through various streets of the city, accompanied by chants, prayers, and the rhythmic sound of temple bells, creating a spiritually charged atmosphere.

Devotees gathered in large numbers along the procession route, offering prayers and seeking blessings. The procession continued until around 11:30 am, covering key areas of the town before returning to the temple premises. Upon arrival, final rituals were performed, marking the formal conclusion of the Karaga Mahotsav.

During its course, the Karaga procession visited several prominent localities, including Upper Market, Thigalar Market, Kurubara Market, Rajputara Street, and the Old Market. Each location witnessed enthusiastic participation from residents, who welcomed the procession with devotion and reverence. The festival is deeply rooted in tradition and holds immense cultural and religious significance for the local community.The worship of the revered Kumara and the ceremonial offerings made throughout the procession added to the spiritual fervor of the event. The sounds of bells, devotional songs, and traditional instruments echoed through the streets, creating an atmosphere of celebration and unity.Local authorities ensured adequate arrangements for crowd management and security, allowing the event to proceed smoothly without major disruptions. Volunteers and organizers played a crucial role in coordinating the procession and assisting devotees.The successful conclusion of the Karaga Mahotsav once again highlighted the rich cultural heritage of Hoskote. The festival not only strengthened religious sentiments but also brought the community together in a shared celebration of tradition and devotion.

Absconding Accused in Burnt Car Case Dies After Train Accident

In a dramatic turn of events, the absconding accused in a shocking case involving a burnt car and skeletal remains of an unidentified woman in Doddaballapura has died after being hit by a train. The incident has added a new dimension to an already disturbing case under investigation.

DODDABALLAPUR

The deceased has been identified as Ramanjinappa, 46, a resident of Marasandra. According to police sources, he died after being struck by a train near Bidadi in Bengaluru South district. Authorities confirmed that Ramanjinappa was the prime suspect who had been absconding following the discovery of a burnt car containing skeletal remains.The case came to light on Saturday when a car caught fire near Jimbebachahalli in Doddaballapura taluk. Upon inspection, police found the skeletal remains of an unidentified woman inside the vehicle, raising suspicions of a possible murder. The incident triggered a detailed investigation, with Ramanjinappa emerging as the key accused.Preliminary inquiries revealed that Ramanjinappa had borrowed the car from his neighbor, Suresh, claiming that a family member was unwell. However, the vehicle was later found engulfed in flames, leading to the shocking discovery. Police suspect that the accused may have attempted to destroy evidence by setting the car on fire.

Following the incident, Ramanjinappa had reportedly gone into hiding, prompting a manhunt by the police. His sudden death after being hit by a train has complicated the investigation, leaving several questions unanswered regarding the identity of the deceased woman and the exact sequence of events.

Meanwhile, the rural police have taken the car owner, Suresh, into custody for questioning as part of the ongoing probe. Officials are continuing their investigation to establish the full details of the case, including forensic analysis and identification of the victim.The incident has shocked local residents and raised concerns about safety and criminal activity in the region. Authorities have assured that all efforts are being made to uncover the truth and bring clarity to the case despite the death of the main accused.

In a significant political development, D. N. Jeevaraj of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has emerged victorious in the much-debated Sringeri postal ballot recount, bringing an end to a prolonged and contentious electoral dispute.

D.N. JEEVARAJ WINS SRINGERI POSTAL BALLOT RECOUNT AFTER PROLONGED LEGAL BATTLE

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Following his victory, Jeevaraj visited the residence of former Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa at Dhavalagiri in Bengaluru to seek his blessings. The meeting is seen as a symbolic gesture of respect and acknowledgment of party leadership. During his visit to the city, he also met BJP state president B. Y. Vijayendra, further strengthening internal party coordination after the crucial win.

The Sringeri postal ballot recount had been the subject of intense legal and political scrutiny over the past three years. Jeevaraj, who had initially lost the election by a narrow margin, consistently questioned the counting process and demanded a recount. He filed multiple petitions, arguing that discrepancies in the postal ballots warranted a thorough review.

Speaking to the media after meeting Yediyurappa, Jeevaraj described the victory as the result of a long and determined legal struggle. He revealed that he had approached various judicial forums, including the High Court and the Supreme Court, seeking justice. According to him, despite initial setbacks, he remained confident in his claims and continued to pursue the matter legally.

He also pointed out that the returning officer had initially declined to act on his request for a recount, even after he submitted the necessary forms. However, persistent legal intervention eventually led to a reconsideration of the case. Jeevaraj stated that doubts over the counting process prompted him to seek judicial intervention, which ultimately resulted in the recount that changed the outcome in his favor.

Meanwhile, political activity surrounding the development intensified, with former MLA Rajegowda meeting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to discuss the next course of action in light of the verdict.

The outcome of the recount has not only altered the political landscape in Sringeri but also highlighted the importance of electoral transparency and legal recourse in democratic processes.

Mass Protest Planned to Save Basapura Lake

KOPPAL

A large-scale protest has been announced in Koppal demanding the protection of Basapura Lake from alleged encroachment. Farmer leader Bhimasen Kalikeri stated that the agitation will take place on May 5, with participation from farmers, activists, and local residents.

Addressing a press conference at the city press club, Bhimasen Kalikeri, district president of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, alleged that large portions of Basapura Lake land have been encroached upon, affecting nearly 44 acres of water spread and surrounding catchment areas. He claimed that industrial activities linked to private companies have disrupted the natural water body, posing a serious threat to water availability for both people and livestock.Kalikeri emphasized that the lake serves as a vital source of drinking water for thousands of residents and animals in the region.

Applications Invited for Dal Processing and Packaging Units

KOPPAL

The Agriculture Department has invited applications from eligible beneficiaries in Koppal for establishing dal processing and packaging units under the 2026–27 Mission for Atmanirbharta in Pulses (MAP) scheme. The initiative aims to boost local value addition, farmer income, and rural employment.

According to officials, the Government of India's Mission for Atmanirbharta in Pulses has allocated a target of 30 dal processing and packaging units for Karnataka. Under this scheme, financial assistance of 33 percent of the project cost, up to a maximum of Rs 25 lakh, will be provided to selected beneficiaries.

Koppal district, known as one of the leading producers of pulses, particularly pigeon pea, stands to benefit significantly from this initiative. Authorities believe the scheme will help farmers and entrepreneurs enhance their income while creating local employment opportunities and strengthening the value chain of pulse crops.

Applications are open to interested farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies (PACS), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), registered institutions, and individual entrepreneurs across all seven taluks of the district, including Koppal, Gangavathi, Kushtagi, Yelburga, Kanakagiri, Karatagi, and Kukanoor.

For individual applicants, the minimum age requirement is 21 years. Only one eligible member per family can avail the subsidy, and applicants must have the capacity to invest at least 15 percent of the project cost as their own contribution. For group institutions, registration is mandatory, and they must have been operational for at least two years, along with the ability to invest 15 percent of the project cost. Preference will be given to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and women beneficiaries.

The unit must have a minimum processing capacity of 300 kilograms per hour. All machinery should comply with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) norms, and obtaining certification from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is mandatory. Beneficiaries must operate the unit for at least three years and are not allowed to transfer or lease it during this period without prior approval.

Officials have stated that applicants will be given a minimum of 30 days to submit their forms. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply promptly with the necessary documents to ensure timely implementation within the 2026–27 financial year.

Congress Celebrates Twin Wins

KOPPAL

Congress workers in Koppal celebrated victories in the Karnataka by-elections and Kerala with enthusiasm, marking the occasion at Ashok Circle with fireworks and distribution of sweets. The wins in constituencies of Davanagere and Bagalkot, along with success in Kerala, boosted party morale. District Women's Congress President Jyoti M. Gondabale said the public has shown strong faith in the party's five guarantee schemes, which have provided support to common people. She noted that the results reflect approval of the government's performance over the past three years and serve as a mirror to its governance. Leaders highlighted that educated voters in Kerala backed the Congress after evaluating its achievements.

Mahapayana Poetry Collection by Manjula Venkateshayya to Be Launched

GADAG

A new voice highlighting the struggles of marginalized communities and women is set to emerge in Gadag with the launch of Mahapayana, a debut poetry collection by Manjula Venkateshayya. The book reflects strong social consciousness and is expected to add a meaningful contribution to contemporary Kannada literature.The poetry collection Mahapayana represents more than just artistic expression; it is described as a powerful reflection of social awareness and resistance. Through her poems, Manjula Venkateshayya addresses issues related to oppression, inequality, and the struggles faced by marginalized sections of society. Inspired by the ideals of B. R. Ambedkar, her work echoes the message of education, organization, and social struggle.The collection features poems such as Tribute to Ambedkar, Poison of Social Hierarchy, and Victory Celebration of Koregaon, which challenge deep-rooted societal norms and call for change. Her writings also pay tribute to influential personalities and reflect a deep respect for cultural and social values rooted in the region.Manjula's journey from managing household responsibilities to entering the literary world is seen as an inspiring example for many women. Balancing her role as a homemaker with her passion for writing, she has demonstrated that determination and creativity can overcome traditional barriers. Her work is expected to encourage more women to express themselves and pursue their aspirations.The support of her husband Venkateshayya, a prominent figure in the local social movement, has played a crucial role in her literary journey. Observers note that the combination of activism and literature has strengthened the impact of her work, making it both socially relevant and intellectually engaging.The book, priced affordably, aims to reach a wide audience despite declining reading habits. Readers are encouraged to support such meaningful literature that promotes progressive thought and social awareness.The official launch of Mahapayana is scheduled to take place on May 5, 2026, at 6:00 pm at the Kannada Sahitya Parishat Bhavan near Delhi Readymade School in Gadag.

FAKE CERTIFICATE CASE

Case Over Fake School Certificate Used for Child Marriage

KOPPAL

Authorities in Koppal have registered a case against individuals accused of issuing a fake school certificate to facilitate a child marriage in Yelburga taluk. District Commissioner Dr Suresh B Itnal confirmed the action, stressing strict enforcement of laws against child marriage.

The incident was reported from Talakeri village in Yelburga taluk, where a minor girl was allegedly married during a mass wedding ceremony at a local temple. Officials found that a fake school certificate had been created and used to falsely establish the girl's age as eligible for marriage. The matter came to light following a complaint, prompting an inquiry by district authorities.

Upon investigation, it was confirmed that the document provided was not genuine. Based on the findings, a case has been registered at Bevuru Police Station against those involved in issuing the false certificate. The accused include the parents of the minor girl and members of the temple committee that organized the ceremony. Charges have been filed under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita as well as the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.Officials stated that facilitating or encouraging child marriage is a punishable offense under the law. The use of forged documents to bypass legal safeguards is considered a serious violation and will attract strict legal consequences. Authorities emphasized that such actions not only violate legal norms but also endanger the rights and well-being of minors.The district administration has also directed the Deputy Director of the School Education and Literacy Department to issue clear instructions to subordinate officials to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

Leaders Join Congress in Koppal Village Event

KOPPAL

In a notable political development in a village of Koppal taluk, several local leaders, supporters, and former representatives formally joined the Congress party in the presence of MLA Srinivas Mane. The induction programme was held at the premises of a government higher primary school, drawing a significant gathering of party workers and villagers.The event marked a strengthening of the Congress base at the grassroots level, as multiple leaders expressed confidence in the party's policies and governance. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Srinivas Mane emphasized the effectiveness of the government's flagship guarantee schemes. He stated that these initiatives have been directly benefiting the public without the involvement of intermediaries, ensuring transparency and efficiency in delivery.Highlighting the financial support provided under these schemes, he said that each eligible family is receiving assistance ranging between ₹4,000 and ₹6,000 per month. According to him, this has significantly improved the living conditions of economically weaker sections and reinforced people's trust in the Congress-led administration.

QUICK READ

Applications Invited for Industrial Training Courses

Vijayapura

The Government Industrial Training Institutes in Vijayapura have invited applications for admission to various vocational courses for the August 2026 session. Eligible candidates who have completed their secondary education can apply online within the specified dates. According to an official notification, admissions are open for National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT)-affiliated trades across government ITIs in the district. Candidates who have passed Class 10 are eligible to apply for most courses, while certain trades such as welder also allow candidates who have passed Class 8 or even those who have failed Class 10 to submit applications. The application process is entirely online and can be completed through the Karnataka ITI admission portal.

Applications Invited for District-Level Vigilance Committee

Vijayapura

The Social Welfare Department has invited applications from eligible candidates in Vijayapura for the formation of a district-level vigilance committee under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013. According to an official notification, the committee is being constituted to oversee the implementation of laws related to the prohibition of manual scavenging and to ensure proper rehabilitation measures for affected individuals. The initiative aims to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and promote social justice at the district level. Applications are invited specifically from candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Power Outage Scheduled on May 5 for Maintenance Work

Chitradurga

Residents of Chitradurga city will experience a temporary power outage on May 5 due to urgent maintenance work at the electricity distribution center. Authorities have requested public cooperation during the scheduled disruption. According to an official announcement issued on May 4, the power supply will be interrupted in several parts of Chitradurga city to facilitate essential maintenance and replacement of electrical equipment at the 66/11 KV Chitradurga power distribution center. The outage is necessary to ensure the safety and efficiency of the power infrastructure in the region. The electricity supply will remain suspended from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on May 5.

Outstanding SSLC Results Bring Glory to Social Welfare Students

Students from hostels and residential schools run by the Social Welfare Department in Gadag district have delivered an impressive performance in the 2026 SSLC annual examinations, achieving high pass percentages and securing top ranks, bringing recognition to the department.

GADAG

According to an official release issued on May 4, students studying in pre-matric hostels and residential schools under the Social Welfare Department in Gadag district have recorded remarkable success in the 2025–26 SSLC examinations. A total of 408 students from hostel facilities appeared for the exams, out of which 387 students passed, registering an overall pass percentage of 94.85.

Among these successful candidates, 16 students secured distinction by scoring above 85 percent marks. Additionally, 203 students passed in first division, 108 in second division, and 60 in third division, reflecting a consistent academic performance across categories. In hostels catering to Scheduled Tribe students, 24 students appeared for the examination, with 23 successfully passing, achieving an impressive pass percentage of 95.83.

The performance of students from residential schools under the department was even more notable. Out of 539 students who appeared for the examinations in 13 residential schools, 206 students secured distinction, while 284 students passed in first division. Overall, these institutions achieved an exceptional pass percentage of 99.86 across the district, with 12 schools recording a perfect 100 percent result.A standout performer from Kittur Rani Channamma Residential School, Kumari Sushma Tavarappa Nayak, secured 620 marks out of 625, achieving an outstanding 99.20 percent and earning the third rank in the district. Her achievement has been widely appreciated as a symbol of academic excellence.Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department, Dr. Nanda Hanabaratti, felicitated the top-performing student at her office and congratulated all students for their success. She expressed hope that such outstanding results would continue in the future, further strengthening the academic reputation of residential schools and hostels under the department.

Leaders Join Congress in Koppal Village Event

KOPPAL

In a notable political development in a village of Koppal taluk, several local leaders, supporters, and former representatives formally joined the Congress party in the presence of MLA Srinivas Mane. The induction programme was held at the premises of a government higher primary school, drawing a significant gathering of party workers and villagers.The event marked a strengthening of the Congress base at the grassroots level, as multiple leaders expressed confidence in the party's policies and governance. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Srinivas Mane emphasized the effectiveness of the government's flagship guarantee schemes. He stated that these initiatives have been directly benefiting the public without the involvement of intermediaries, ensuring transparency and efficiency in delivery.

Power Supply Disruption Scheduled on May 6

KARWAR

The electricity department has announced a planned power outage in parts of the Karwar subdivision on May 6 due to ongoing maintenance and infrastructure work. Residents have been advised to make necessary arrangements during the scheduled disruption.According to an official press release issued on May 4, the power supply will be temporarily suspended in several areas under the Karwar subdivision as part of essential maintenance work. The outage is required to facilitate the replacement and servicing of high-tension electrical lines and related infrastructure, ensuring improved efficiency and reliability of power distribution in the region.The interruption in electricity supply will take place on May 6, beginning at 9:30 AM and continuing until 6:00 PM. During this period, multiple localities connected to the affected feeder lines will experience a complete shutdown of power.

Authorities stated that the maintenance work is crucial to prevent unexpected breakdowns and to enhance the overall performance of the power network. The upgrade activities are part of routine efforts undertaken to strengthen the system and ensure uninterrupted service in the long term.Residents and businesses in the affected areas have been requested to cooperate with the electricity department and plan their activities accordingly to minimize inconvenience. Officials emphasized that such temporary disruptions are necessary to carry out technical improvements and maintain safety standards.The statement was issued by the Assistant Executive Engineer of the Karwar subdivision, who urged consumers to remain patient during the scheduled outage and assured that power supply would be restored promptly after the completion of the maintenance work.

Nomadic Development Corporation Chairperson to Visit on May 9–10

HIRIYUR

G. Pallavi, Chairperson of the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Nomadic Development Corporation, is scheduled to visit Hiriyur taluk in Chitradurga district on May 9 and 10 to review issues faced by nomadic communities and conduct grievance meetings.According to an official release issued on May 4, G. Pallavi will undertake a two-day tour of Hiriyur taluk as part of efforts to directly engage with Scheduled Caste nomadic communities and address their concerns.

As per the itinerary, Pallavi will depart from Bengaluru at 6:00 PM on May 9 and is expected to arrive in Hiriyur at 9:00 PM the same night. She will stay at the government guest house in Hiriyur during her visit.On May 10, the chairperson will begin her official engagements at 10:00 AM with a grievance redressal meeting near the Marakka Temple in Ward 12 of Hiriyur city. The meeting will involve members of Scheduled Caste nomadic Shillekyata communities, where she will listen to their issues and discuss possible solutions.Later in the day, at 3:00 PM, Pallavi will conduct another grievance meeting near the Yellamma Devi Temple in the Thorepakka area, specifically at Koramara Colony. This session will focus on addressing the concerns of the Scheduled Caste nomadic Korama community.

Officials stated that these meetings are aimed at strengthening outreach and ensuring that government schemes and benefits effectively reach marginalized nomadic groups. The chairperson is expected to gather feedback directly from the communities to improve policy implementation and welfare initiatives.

BJP Celebrates Victory in Three Key States with Grand Event

Celebrations erupted in Mannakhelli village of Bidar South constituency after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) secured a historic victory in three major states.

BIDAR

The event was led by MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale, with enthusiastic participation from party leaders, workers, and supporters. The victory celebrations were held following the NDA's success in West Bengal, Assam, and Puducherry, which party leaders described as a significant political milestone. The event in Mannakhelli village saw large gatherings of supporters who marked the occasion with fireworks and distribution of sweets, expressing joy over the electoral achievements.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Shailendra Beldale credited the victory to the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with the efforts of senior leaders including party president Nitin Nabin and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He emphasized that the success was a result of the collective hard work of party workers and the trust placed in the NDA by the people.

Beldale stated that the celebration was not merely about electoral success but a recognition of public faith in good governance, development, and effective administration. He added that the victory reflected the aspirations of citizens who support progress, stability, and strong leadership at the national level.

Highlighting the significance of the results, he remarked that the win was not easily achieved but was built on the dedication and commitment of thousands of party workers. According to him, it represents the voice of the people and a decisive step toward shaping the nation's future.

The MLA also expressed confidence that the BJP would continue to strengthen its presence and eventually come to power in the state as well. He urged party workers to maintain their commitment to public service and ensure that the trust of the people is upheld.

The event witnessed the participation of several local leaders and workers, who joined in the celebrations and reaffirmed their support for the party's vision of development and governance.

Power Supply Disruption Scheduled on May 6

KARWAR

The electricity department has announced a planned power outage in parts of the Karwar subdivision on May 6 due to ongoing maintenance and infrastructure work. Residents have been advised to make necessary arrangements during the scheduled disruption.According to an official press release issued on May 4, the power supply will be temporarily suspended in several areas under the Karwar subdivision as part of essential maintenance work. The outage is required to facilitate the replacement and servicing of high-tension electrical lines and related infrastructure, ensuring improved efficiency and reliability of power distribution in the region.The interruption in electricity supply will take place on May 6, beginning at 9:30 AM and continuing until 6:00 PM. During this period, multiple localities connected to the affected feeder lines will experience a complete shutdown of power.

OFFICIALS DIRECTED TO EXPEDITE PREPARATIONS FOR KANAKAGIRI UTSAV 2026

KOPPAL

District authorities in Koppal have intensified preparations for the upcoming Kanakagiri Utsav 2026, with officials instructed to ensure all arrangements are completed on time. The two-day festival is scheduled to be held on May 16 and 17 at the historic town of Kanakagiri.

Chairing a preparatory meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office on May 4, District Commissioner Suresh B. Itnal directed all committees and departments involved in organizing the festival to work actively and efficiently. He emphasized that only a few days remain for the event and all assigned responsibilities must be completed within the stipulated time.

The district administration had earlier formed more than 16 committees to oversee various aspects of the festival. Officials have been asked to hold frequent review meetings and ensure smooth coordination among departments.

The Commissioner stressed that the festival should create a vibrant and festive atmosphere across Kanakagiri, including proper lighting arrangements along procession routes.

Special attention was given to cultural and procession committees, which were instructed to finalize the selection of folk artists and performers through a transparent process. Adequate arrangements for accommodation and food must be made for dignitaries, artists, media personnel, and officials attending the event. Authorities were also directed to ensure quality food, drinking water, and other essential amenities for the public.Sports activities such as wrestling, kabaddi, and volleyball are also planned as part of the festival. Officials from the youth empowerment and sports department have been asked to prepare for these events and invite reputed players to participate.

The stage and infrastructure committee has been tasked with setting up proper stages, green rooms, barricading, and parking facilities. Exhibition stalls showcasing schemes from agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, fisheries, animal husbandry, women and child development, and health departments will also be set up. Members of self-help groups under Sanjeevini and NRLM will be given opportunities to display and sell their products.Transportation arrangements will be enhanced by the state transport corporation to facilitate public participation. Authorities have also been instructed to promote the event widely to ensure large attendance.Superintendent of Police Ram L. Arasiddi emphasized the need for robust security arrangements to ensure safety for all attendees. Meanwhile, Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Panchayat Varnit Negi highlighted the importance of coordination among local bodies and ensuring cleanliness, decoration, and smooth road connectivity across the region.

BJP VICTORY CELEBRATION

Grand BJP Victory Celebrations Held

BIDAR

A grand celebration was held in Mannakhelli village of Bidar South constituency following the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) historic victory in three major states. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from party leaders, workers, and supporters under the leadership of MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale.The celebration was organized after the NDA secured significant victories in West Bengal, Assam, and Puducherry, which party leaders described as a landmark achievement in national politics. The event in Mannakhelli village drew a large gathering of party members and the public, who expressed their joy through fireworks and distribution of sweets.Addressing the gathering, MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale credited the victory to the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with the contributions of key leaders including party national president Nitin Nabin and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He stated that the collective efforts of party leaders and grassroots workers made this victory possible.He emphasized that the celebration was not just about winning elections but about recognizing the trust people have placed in the party's governance and development-oriented policies. According to him, the results reflect the people's support for progress, efficient administration, and national security.Beldale further noted that the victory was achieved through the dedication and hard work of thousands of party workers. He described it as a reflection of public confidence and a decisive moment shaping the country's future. Highlighting the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, he said India is rising to greater prominence on the global stage, while the organizational strength of Amit Shah has further strengthened the party.

Citizens Urge Action to Clean Stormwater Drain Ahead of Monsoon

KOPPAL

Various public organizations in Koppal have submitted a memorandum to the district administration demanding immediate cleaning and restoration of the city's main stormwater drain before the onset of the monsoon, warning of potential flooding and health risks.

A coalition of public welfare organizations submitted a formal appeal to District Commissioner Suresh B. Itnal on Monday, urging urgent action to clean and restore the main stormwater drain passing through key residential areas of Koppal city. The groups highlighted the deteriorating condition of the drain and warned that failure to act promptly could lead to severe consequences during the upcoming monsoon season.

According to the memorandum, the major drain, which carries rainwater from several important localities, is currently clogged with overgrown vegetation, plastic waste, and accumulated silt. In several stretches, the flow of water has been completely obstructed.

MAMATA VOWS TO BOUNCE BACK

MAMATA BANERJEE VOWS A COMEBACK DESPITE EARLY TRENDS SHOWING A HISTORIC BJP LEAD IN THE 2026 WEST BENGAL ELECTIONS

KOLKATA

West Bengal is witnessing a political earthquake as early trends from the 2026 Assembly elections suggest a historic shift in power. For the first time in fifteen years, the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) finds itself trailing significantly behind the BJP.

While the BJP has surged past the halfway mark by leading in over 170 seats, a defiant Mamata Banerjee has accused the opposition of "looting" over 100 seats, promising that her party will bounce back.

The current numbers indicate a massive breakthrough for the BJP in a state it has long fought to capture. The party is currently well ahead of the TMC, which is struggling to stay around the 100-seat mark.

Most alarmingly for the ruling party, their stronghold in the Presidency region appears to be crumbling. Political analysts note that the last time such a dramatic shift occurred against a sitting government, it ended the Left Front's thirty-year rule.

If these leads hold, it will mark the end of Mamata Banerjee's decade-and-a-half reign. However, the Chief Minister remains undeterred by the early data. She has voiced strong concerns over the integrity of the results in many constituencies, suggesting that the massive leads seen in BJP favor do not reflect the true will of the people.

As the counting continues late into the evening, the atmosphere across Bengal remains tense. While BJP supporters have begun early celebrations, the TMC maintains that the final tally will tell a different story of resilience.

Arjun Singh urges peace after BJP win in Bengal

BARRACKPORE

BJP leader Arjun Singh has appealed for calm after the party's election victory in West Bengal. He asked party supporters not to take revenge against Trinamool Congress workers or supporters. In a post on social media platform X, he said no violent or harmful behaviour would be tolerated. Singh urged workers to avoid attacking homes or shops and to respect the law. He added that voters have given the party strong support, and it should be used for development, not conflict. He stressed unity and peaceful conduct among all citizens after the result.

Mamata Banerjee labels the BJP's victory "totally immoral," alleging seat looting and intimidation while vowing a powerful political comeback

MAMATA SLAMS BJP WIN AS TOTALLY IMMORAL

KOLKATA

Following a dramatic shift in the West Bengal election results, Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee has launched a fierce attack on the BJP, labeling their projected victory as "totally immoral."

As the BJP moved toward a majority in the 2026 Assembly polls, a defiant Banerjee addressed the media, refusing to accept the outcome as a fair reflection of the people's mandate.

The Chief Minister made the startling allegation that the BJP "looted" over 100 seats across the state through illegal means. Beyond the seat count, she claimed she was personally targeted during the high-stakes counting day. Banerjee accused BJP workers and supporters of "gheraoing" or surrounding her while she monitored the procedure, an act she described as a blatant violation of democratic norms and personal safety.

"This is totally illegal," she told reporters, visibly frustrated by the day's events. She confirmed that her party has already lodged an official complaint with the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), demanding an investigation into the conduct of the polls and the counting process. She argued that the atmosphere of intimidation made it impossible for a fair tally to be completed.

Despite the setback, the TMC supremo sent a clear message to her supporters and rivals alike. She insisted that the Trinamool Congress is far from finished and vowed to make a powerful comeback in the future. While the BJP celebrates its historic breakthrough in the East, Banerjee's stance ensures that the battle for Bengal's soul is far from over.

'Mookerjee's soul finds peace after BJP win'

KOLKATA

In a deeply emotional address following the BJP's historic victory in West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a moving tribute to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee. Speaking to a jubilant crowd of party workers, the Prime Minister invoked the legacy of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder, describing him as the man whose relentless efforts ensured that Bengal remained an integral part of India.

Modi told the gathering that this electoral breakthrough was not just a political win, but the fulfillment of a long-held ideological dream. He remarked that Mookerjee, a towering figure in Bengal's history, had sacrificed everything for the unity and integrity of the nation. The Prime Minister added that with the "lotus blooming" across the state and the formation of the first-ever BJP government in Bengal, Mookerjee's soul would finally rest in peace.

The Prime Minister's speech highlighted the "Purvoday" vision, or the rise of the East, which he claimed has now become a reality. He thanked the millions of grassroots workers who braved years of struggle to bring about this change. By connecting the current victory to the state's historical roots, Modi framed the result as a restoration of Bengal's original identity. As the BJP celebrates ending fifteen years of TMC rule, the mention of Mookerjee has struck a chord with supporters. For many, the 2026 result represents the closing of a circle that began with Mookerjee's early vision for a prosperous, secure, and culturally rooted West Bengal.

Suvendu wins Nandigram hat-trick victory

NANDIGRAM

Suvendu Adhikari has won the Nandigram seat for the third consecutive time. He secured victory with a margin of 10,200 votes, according to election results. The win marks another strong performance for the leader in a closely watched constituency. Supporters celebrated his continued success in the region, where the contest has remained politically significant over the years.

Party workers said the result shows steady backing from voters in Nandigram. With this victory, Adhikari strengthens his position further in state politics as counting and final declarations continue across West Bengal.

Abhishek shrugs off slogans during historic loss

KOLKATA

Tensions boiled over in the streets of West Bengal as jubilant BJP supporters targeted Trinamool Congress (TMC) General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee with aggressive "chor" (thief) slogans.

The incident occurred shortly after election trends confirmed a massive defeat for the ruling party, marking the end of their fifteen-year dominance in the state. As the BJP surged toward a historic majority, the atmosphere turned increasingly hostile for the TMC leadership.

Despite the loud and mocking chants from the opposition, Abhishek Banerjee appeared to remain composed while addressing the media. He refused to engage directly with the protesters, stating that he would not let the slogans distract him from the unfolding results. "Let them give chor-chor slogans. I will not say anything," he remarked calmly. He acknowledged that the political situation had changed rapidly, admitting that "many things have happened" during this intense election cycle.

The TMC leader remained optimistic despite the daunting numbers, insisting that his party was still in the fight. He pointed out that counting was still ongoing in several areas and that "many seats are still on for us." However, the public jeering serves as a stark reminder of the shifting mood in Bengal, where the BJP's narrative regarding corruption seems to have taken a firm hold among voters.

As the night progressed, the "chor" slogans became a rallying cry for BJP workers celebrating their breakthrough. For Abhishek and the TMC, the results represent a challenging new chapter where they must navigate both a lost mandate and a vocal, energized opposition.

AMIT SHAH PRAISES WORKERS AFTER BENGAL WIN

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah praised party workers after the BJP's victory in West Bengal. He said the win was made possible due to the sacrifices and struggles of many workers in the state. In a social media post, Shah said it was a historic result and credited the dedication of supporters who faced difficult situations but stayed with the party. He also acknowledged the families who stood firm despite reported violence. Shah said their patience and commitment helped secure the saffron flag's success. He called the victory a result of long years of hard work and dedication across Bengal.

SC issues notice to govt on Christian Michel's detention plea

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India sought a response from the Central Government regarding a plea filed by Christian Michel James, the alleged middleman in the Rs 3,600-crore AgustaWestland VVIP chopper scam. Michel is challenging his continued detention, arguing that he has already spent more time in jail than the maximum sentence prescribed for his alleged crimes. A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta has given the government four weeks to respond to the petition. This latest move comes after the Delhi High Court rejected his plea on April 8, upholding the validity of the extradition treaty. With the Supreme Court now stepping in to examine the legality of his continued "illegal detention," the case enters a critical phase concerning the balance between international treaties and domestic criminal law.

The Core of the Plea

Michel, a British citizen who was extradited from Dubai in 2018, has raised several legal points in his challenge

- Sentence Already Served: Michel contends that he has been in custody for over seven years. He argues that the maximum punishment for the offences he is charged with—specifically under the Prevention of Corruption Act—is five years.
- The 'Doctrine of Speciality': His legal team argues that under Section 21 of the Extradition Act, an individual can only be prosecuted for the specific offences for which they were extradited.
- Challenging the India-UAE Treaty: He has specifically challenged Article 17 of the India-UAE extradition treaty, which allows for prosecution for "connected offences." Michel claims this provision is being used to keep him in jail indefinitely.

Background of the Case

The AgustaWestland case involves alleged kickbacks paid to secure a 2010 deal for 12 VVIP helicopters.

KEY DETAIL	INFORMATION
Total Deal Value	Euro 556.26 million (approx. Rs 3,600 crore)
Estimated Loss	Euro 398.21 million (approx. Rs 2,666 crore)
Alleged Kickbacks (Michel)	Euro 30 million (approx. Rs 225 crore)
Extradition Date	December 2018

Gwalior gets faster air links boost soon

NEW DELHI

Akasa Air has started new flights from Gwalior to Delhi and Bengaluru, improving travel for passengers and businesses. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia welcomed the move, calling it a boost for the city's growth. Earlier, IndiGo flights operated only three days a week, but now services run almost daily, including Monday, Wednesday, and Friday schedules. The Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Airport will now better connect the region to major hubs. Officials say this will support jobs, trade, and education. Though a small fuel surcharge has been added, better connectivity is expected to benefit travelers and strengthen Gwalior's future development overall further ahead.

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SEDAM.
Near State Bank of India, Sedam-585222 Dist : Kalaburagi, State : Karnataka
WebSite: www.sedamtown.mrc.gov.in, Phone: 08441-277912-276932

NO:CMC-SEDAM/MF/2025-26 Date: 04.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Municipal Commissioner CMC Sedam, Dist-Kalaburagi, Karnataka Invites Tenders Under Municipal Fund -2025-26 Through http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in KPP Portal as per the KTPP Act 2000 from Eligible Registered contractors. 01) Works/Goods/Service Details:- 1. DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55039/Call-2 Category-II(A), 2. DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55075/Call-2, Others, 3. DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT55200/Call-2 Category- Sc, 02) Head of Account : Municipal Fund – 2025-26, 03) Works/Goods/Service Estimated Cost : Rs. 80.27 to 100.00 Lakhs, 04) Contractors/Agency/Suppliers Edibility : Eligible Registered contractors, 05) Works/Goods/Service Tender Cost : Rs. 80.27 to 100.00 Lakhs, 06) Last date for applying the tender : 18.05.2026 Evening 17.00 Hours, 07) Tenders Opening Date : 20.05.2026 Morning 11.00 Hours, (Financial Bid Opening As per kpp portal) 08) Office Address and Contact Details : City Municipal Council Sedam- 7892152625
ಷರತ್ತು: ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿಗನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಬಿಲ್ಲು ಪಾವತಿಸುವ ಷರತ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತಿದೆ.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/99/Deshpande Publicity/2026-27

Sd/-Municipal Commissioner
CMC Sedam

OFFICE OF THE
CITY CIVIL COURT, BENGALURU
F.No. ADM II 09/2025 (Manpower Outsource)
Tel: 080 22939220 E-mail: cccadm2gmail.com

CCC.ADM.II. 09/2025 (Manpower Outsource-CCH93KPIDFE)
Date: 02.05.2026

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

This Office invites e-Bidding Request For Proposals (Quotations) from eligible and interested Firms/Agencies/Operators who are interested to supply the Manpower through Outsource to the newly created Court of XCII Addl. City Civil and Sessions Judge, Bengaluru City, through e-procurement portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/Auctions/live),** for a period of 3 years, renewable each year, from the date of commencement and extendable beyond, until the onboarding of next subsequent tenderer, the details of the numbers of manpower of different cadres required, are as appended:

Item Code	Cadres	No.s	Total
A.II.09/Manpower/CCH93KPIDFE	Typists	1	4
	Attender	1	
	Peon	2	

1. Tender Number: **ADM.II. 09/2025/(Manpower Outsource-CCH93KPIDFE) Dated: 02.05.2026**
2. Tender Number (as issued by KPPP): **HCK/2026-27/SE0164 dated 02.05.2026**
3. Tender Name/Services sought for: Manpower Services through Outsource to the Court of XCII Addl. City Civil and Sessions Judge, Bengaluru City.
4. Procuring Entity: **Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru**
5. Validity of the Tender Contract: **3 years, renewable each year, subject to the satisfactory quality/performance or until order of discontinuation said Courts by the Hon'ble Government of Karnataka**
6. Estimated Approximate Total Tender Cost: ₹11,94,854/- per annum (Approx. Estimation based on calculations of present Basic pay, VDA and Service charges as per).
7. EMD Amount: **Rs. 14,936/-**
8. Billing model: **Billing after completion of each calendar month, subject to the satisfactory performance.**
9. Closing Date & Time for submission of Tender proposal: **17.05.2026 at 3.00 p.m.**
10. Tender Opening Date & Time : **Technical : 18.05.2026 at 3.01 p.m. Financial: Upon approval of Technical Bid**
11. Office Contact Number & e-mail ID: **080 2293 9220, cccadm2@gmail.com**
12. Pre-bid Meeting : **12.05.2026 at 1.00 p.m.,**
13. Pre-bid Meeting Attendance compulsory: **Yes. Certificate of Attendance to be uploaded**
-subject to the terms and conditions as stipulated in the Full e-Tender Notification of the even reference no., the Eligible and Interested vendors (having business in Bengaluru City Only), in acceptance to the above stated details, terms and conditions may submit their e-Bidding Proposals (Quotations), through e-procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/Auctions/live).**

Sd/-
Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/490/NR/2026-27

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'. The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/15/2025-26)

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004 (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 717/2019)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
	Site No. 10, Khata No. 167, (1st A Cross, Rashad Nagar, 'C' Block, Ward No.25 Byatarayanapura CMC) Nagawara Gramathana, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluku, Bengaluru-560045. Total measuring 1080 sq.ft Google Map link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/4vwDADYTmky9BnMr6 Latitude and Longitude: 13°01'49.0"N 77°37'03.2"E			
(a)	Ground Floor-1, Flat No. GF-101, UDS-87.95, SBA-324 sq.ft	11,28,600/-	1,13,000/-	12,000/-
(b)	Ground Floor-2, Flat No. GF-102, UDS-131.30, SBA-484 sq.ft	16,50,150/-	1,66,000/-	17,000/-
(c)	First Floor-1, Flat No. FF-104, UDS-144.71, SBA-534 sq.ft	18,29,700/-	1,83,000/-	19,000/-
(d)	First Floor-2, Flat No. FF-103, UDS-142.21, SBA-524 sq.ft	17,95,500/-	1,80,000/-	18,000/-
(e)	Second Floor-1, Flat No. SF-106, UDS-142.21, SBA-524 sq.ft	18,46,800/-	1,85,000/-	19,000/-
(f)	Second Floor-2, Flat No. SF-105, UDS-142.21, SBA-524 sq.ft	18,13,455/-	1,82,000/-	19,000/-
(g)	Third Floor-1, Flat No. TF-108, UDS-142.21, SBA-524 sq.ft	18,21,150/-	1,83,000/-	19,000/-
(h)	Third Floor-2, Flat No. TF-107, UDS-142.21, SBA-524 sq.ft	17,86,950/-	1,79,000/-	18,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
14th May 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru	22nd May 2026 2:00 pm to 05:00pm	26th May 2026 Before 5.00 pm	29th May 2026 11.00 am to 1.00 pm

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 9945515174.

Date: 30.04.2026
Place: Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/485/ZEN/2026-27

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

Lebanon Rejects Talks Without Ceasefire

Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri has ruled out any negotiations with Israel unless ongoing hostilities in southern Lebanon come to a complete halt, highlighting growing obstacles to international peace efforts in the region

BEIRUT

In a strong statement reported on Monday, Nabih Berri, one of Lebanon's most influential political figures and a close ally of Hezbollah, emphasized that ending the war must take priority over any diplomatic engagement. His remarks come amid continued violence despite a ceasefire agreement reached between Lebanon and Israel in mid-April, which has been extended into May but remains fragile.

Berri's position underscores the difficulty faced by the United States in mediating peace between the two sides. While Washington has pushed for diplomatic talks following rare face-to-face meetings last month, the situation on the ground has not stabilized. Israeli forces continue to maintain positions in southern Lebanon and have reportedly carried out demolitions in certain areas, while Hezbollah fighters have sustained their attacks against Israeli troops.

On Monday, the Israeli military issued fresh evacuation orders to residents in four additional villages beyond its

declared security zone, citing alleged ceasefire violations by Hezbollah. The group, however, claimed responsibility for multiple operations against Israeli forces, stating it conducted at least eleven attacks in a single day.

Lebanon's government has reiterated its desire for a long-term arrangement that would end recurring cycles of violence and military incursions, though it has stopped short of advocating a formal peace agreement. Israel, on the other hand, insists that any durable settlement must include the complete disarmament of Hezbollah, a condition that remains highly contentious.

Meanwhile, Donald Trump expressed optimism about the prospects for peace, suggesting there is a strong possibility of an agreement being reached within the year. Trump has also indicated interest in hosting talks involving Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun in an effort to push negotiations forward.

Despite diplomatic momentum, Berri's firm stance signals that without an immediate and verifiable end to hostilities, meaningful negotiations between Lebanon and Israel remain unlikely in the near term.

QUICK READ

At least 130 Nigerians seek repatriation from SA after protests

Abuja

At least 130 Nigerian citizens in South Africa have asked their government to fly them home after a protests there targeting foreigners, Nigeria's Foreign Minister, Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, said. There were the first to apply to a new scheme to repatriate citizens launched by Nigeria's government, Odumegwu-Ojukwu said, amid fears that confrontations in South Africa could escalate. Protesters held rallies in Pretoria and Johannesburg last week, demanding tougher action against illegal immigration, saying undocumented foreign nationals were putting pressure on jobs, security and public services. Campaigners for migrant rights say foreigners have long been scapegoated in South Africa for its economic woes.

Guyana tells World Court Venezuela's claim on oil-rich Esequibo region

The Hague

Guyana has asked judges at the International Court of Justice to rule that Venezuela does not have a legitimate claim on the potentially oil-rich region around the Esequibo river, which has been the subject of a dispute between the Latin American neighbours since colonial days. Facing a larger and more powerful neighbour's designs on our territory has not only threatened our peace and security, it has held back our development, Guyana's Foreign Minister Hugh Hilton Todd told judges at the start of week-long hearings at the ICJ, also known as the World Court.

WHO says risk to public is low after suspected hantavirus outbreak hits ship

GENEVA

The World Health Organization said on Monday there was no need for panic and the risk to the public was low after three people died and three fell ill following a suspected outbreak of the rodent-borne hantavirus on a cruise ship in the Atlantic.

Netherlands-based Oceanwide Expeditions said it was managing a serious medical situation on a polar expedition ship, the MV Hondius, which was off Cape Verde, an island nation off Africa's western coast.

The cruise left Argentina about three weeks ago with around 150 passengers and stopped in the Antarctic and other locations on its way to Cape Verde, according to media reports. The risk to the wider public remains low. There is no need for panic or travel restrictions, WHO regional director for Europe, Hans Kluge, said in a statement.

Iran Warns US Warship

DUBAI

Iran's navy announced on Monday that it had issued what it described as a swift and decisive warning to prevent a United States warship from entering the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil transit routes. The claim comes amid heightened confrontation between Iran and the United States following ongoing regional conflict.

According to Iran's semi-official, missiles were allegedly fired at the warship near the port of Jask, located at the southern entrance of the strait, where Iran maintains a naval base. However, a senior U.S. official quickly rejected these claims, stating that no such strike had occurred. The conflicting accounts were reported by Axios journalist Barak Ravid, while independent verification of the incident remains unavailable.

The development follows warnings from Iran directed at U.S. forces to avoid entering the waterway. These warnings came after Donald Trump announced plans for the United States to assist ships stranded in the Gulf due to the ongoing war involving Iran. Trump stated that the U.S. would help guide vessels safely out of restricted waters to allow the resumption of normal commercial activity,

Iran has claimed it forced a United States warship to retreat from the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, escalating tensions in the region, though American officials have denied reports of any missile strike on the vessel

although he provided limited operational details.

In response, Iran's military leadership instructed commercial vessels and oil tankers to avoid movement unless coordinated with Iranian forces. Ali Abdollahi, head of Iran's unified command, reiterated that the security of the Strait of Hormuz lies under Iran's control. He warned that any foreign military presence, particularly from the United States, would face direct confrontation if it approached the area.

Since the escalation of hostilities, Iran has effectively restricted most maritime traffic through the Gulf, allowing primarily its own vessels to pass. This disruption has significantly impacted global energy markets, as the Strait of Hormuz is responsible for nearly one-fifth of the world's oil and gas shipments. The resulting supply constraints have driven oil prices sharply higher, with increases reported at 50 percent or more.

The situation underscores rising geopolitical tensions and the potential for further escalation in a region crucial to global energy security.

Meta Faces Trial over Youth Harm

NEW MEXICO

A major trial in New Mexico is set to examine allegations that Meta's social media platforms have harmed young users' mental health, potentially leading to sweeping changes in how the company operates. The case marks a critical phase in a lawsuit brought by Raúl Torrez against Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp. The trial will determine whether Meta's platforms constitute a public nuisance under state law, a ruling that could allow courts to impose extensive operational changes. The lawsuit accuses Meta of deliberately designing its platforms to be addictive, particularly for younger users, while failing to adequately protect children from harmful content and sexual exploitation. This phase follows a March jury verdict that found Meta had violated consumer protection laws by misrepresenting the safety of Facebook and Instagram for minors. The company was ordered to pay $375 million in damages.

Now, the court will consider whether additional penalties and corrective measures are warranted. Prosecutors are expected to seek billions of dollars more in damages and demand structural changes to Meta's platforms. Proposed measures include stricter age verification systems, algorithm adjustments to prioritize safer and higher-quality content for minors, and the removal of features such as autoplay and infinite scrolling for younger users.

Meta has strongly contested the claims, stating that it has implemented significant safeguards to protect young users. The company argues that there is no conclusive scientific evidence linking social media use to widespread mental health issues and warns that some of the proposed requirements may be impractical or unfeasible. The case is part of a broader wave of legal actions across the United States targeting social media companies over concerns about their impact on youth mental health.

Australia Probes Antisemitism after Attack

SYDNEY

Australia has launched public hearings into the deadly Bondi Beach mass shooting, with members of the Jewish community sharing accounts of rising antisemitism and growing fears for their safety.

The inquiry, led by retired judge Virginia Bell, is part of a national Royal Commission examining the December attack at Bondi Beach, which left 15 people dead during a Hanukkah celebration. The hearings began on Monday and are focusing initially on the increasing prevalence of antisemitism across Australia.

Bell noted that the surge in antisemitic incidents in Australia reflects a broader trend seen across Western nations, particularly following developments in the Middle East. She emphasized the speed with which global conflicts can translate into domestic hostility, warning that Jewish Australians have increasingly become targets of hate simply due to their identity. Witnesses from the Jewish community described a worsening climate of fear and insecurity since the outbreak of the Gaza war in October 2023. Among them was Peter Halasz, an 86-year-old Holocaust survivor who fled Hungary decades ago.

US reaffirms support for Taiwan as President Lai makes surprise Eswatini visit

TAIPEI

The United States has reaffirmed its support for Taiwan, calling it a trusted and capable partner, as Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te undertook a surprise diplomatic visit to Eswatini amid rising tensions with China.

According to the United States Department of State, Taiwan continues to play a valuable role as a global partner, with its international relationships delivering tangible benefits to allied nations. The remarks came during the visit of Lai Ching-te to Eswatini, the only African country that maintains formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

Lai's visit, which began over the weekend, was described as routine by U.S. officials, though it followed reports that an earlier planned trip had been disrupted due to pressure from China. Taipei had alleged that Beijing influenced several Indian Ocean nations to deny overflight permissions for Lai's aircraft, highlighting the ongoing geopolitical struggle over Taiwan's international recognition.

China considers Taiwan a part of its territory and strongly opposes any form of official engagement between the island and other nations. Taiwan's government rejects this claim, maintaining its sovereignty and right to conduct foreign relations. The United States, while not formally recognizing Taiwan as a separate state, remains its most significant international supporter and primary arms supplier, a stance that continues to strain relations with Beijing.

Officials in Washington emphasized that such diplomatic visits are consistent with longstanding practice, noting that previous Taiwanese leaders, including Tsai Ing-wen, have also traveled to Eswatini in recent years. They urged that these engagements should not be politicized. During a state banquet, Mswati III voiced support for Taiwan's international participation, pointing out that the island's population remains excluded from global institutions such as the United Nations due to China's objections.

Russian Missile Strike Kills Five

MOSCOW

A Russian missile attack on the town of Merefa in Ukraine's Kharkiv region has left five people dead and several others injured, Ukrainian officials confirmed, as the war continues to inflict heavy civilian casualties. Ukrainian authorities reported that the strike targeted the town of Merefa, located in northeastern Ukraine, on Monday. According to regional governor Oleh Syniehubov, the missile hit civilian infrastructure in an area situated far from the active front lines, raising concerns over continued attacks on non-military targets.

The assault resulted in the deaths of five individuals, including two men and three women, while at least 18 others were wounded. Among the injured, four people were reported to be in serious condition and required hospitalization. Emergency responders were quickly deployed to the scene, where significant destruction was reported across the town.

Officials stated that at least ten residential homes were damaged, along with an administrative building, four shops, a car repair facility, and a food establishment. Images released by emergency services showed widespread devastation, including buildings with shattered windows and damaged roofs, a burning vehicle being extinguished by firefighters, and rescue teams assisting injured civilians.

Regional prosecutors indicated that the attack was likely carried out using an Iskander missile, a powerful ballistic missile system known for its precision and destructive capability. There was no immediate response from Russia regarding the reported strike. Moscow has consistently denied deliberately targeting civilians since launching its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. However, thousands of civilian casualties have been recorded over the course of the conflict.

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mysuru Division, Mysuru.
E-mail: eepwdmys21@gmail.com
Phone No. & Fax No. 0821-2420810
IFT No.36/2025-26/CALL-2 **Dt.30.04.2026**

ITEM WISE SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department has published item wise Tender notification for a work approved under H/A:5054-80-190-0-01-132-KRDCL-Capital Expenditure Construction of bridge at Ch 109.90km on Ramanathapura Terakanambi SH 86 road in Nanjangud Taluk (near Hadiyala village) under this division with KW- 4 Conditions & Regulations with Two cover systems. For Above said work **EMD amount is Rs.4.76 Lakhs.** Pre bid Meeting will be held in the under signed office at 11.00 A.M on 04.05.2026 Tenders shall be Submitted in KPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 30.04.2026 to 08.05.2026 within 17.00 PM.** KPWD Class-II & Above Contractor Registered in KPP-Portal are eligible. More details can be obtained from the office of the under Signed during office hours. Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in KPP-Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Work Department
Mysuru Division, Mysuru
DIPR/DDMYS/132/KSMCA/111/2026-27

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–560100.
E-Mail: ka.konappanaagrahara.tmc@gmail.com
ನಂ.ಪು.ಕಾ.ಕೋ/ತಾಂ.ಶಾ/ಪ.ಆರ್/01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.05.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಮುಕ್ತನಿಧಿ, ಎಸ್‌ಸಿಎಸ್‌ಪಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಷರತ್ತು ಹಾಗೂ ಸೂಚನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಂಡೆಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/2026-27/BD/WORK INDENT 57776, DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57817, DMA/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT57819, DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT57820 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ವಿವರಗಳು: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:11.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ17.00ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.05.2026ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 17.15 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಮತ್ತು ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT57846 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ವಿವರಗಳು: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:19.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ17.00ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.05.2026ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 17.15 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಮುಂದೂಡಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಯಾವುದೇ ವಾರ್ತ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ

ಸಹಿ /– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ

ಪಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಪಾ.ಪ್ರ/479/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಪಿ/2026–27

CHANGE OF NAME

I **Sureshbabu V,** Resident of #21, Ward No 9, Kolatlu Street, Behind Gangamma Temple, Chikkaballapura Taluk & Dist-562101. I State That I Have Changed my Name from **MV Sureshbabu** To **Sureshbabu V** Vide Affidavit Dated 22/04/2026 Sworn Before **PV Ramachandra Reddy** Notary Public At Chikkaballapur Court Hall

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CRL MIS No. 44/2026
Beteween: Sri K.M Anjan Kumar S/o Late Dodda muniyappa @ Muniyappa Aged about 57 Years, Kangala pura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District **Petitioner.**
AND The Register of Birth and Death Rep. by the Tahashildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapur **Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioner as followed the above petition under section 13(3) and 14 of registration of birth and death act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his mother-in-law by name THIMAKKA W/o DODDAHANUMANTHAIAH who died on 10.10.1990 at Kangalapura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk Bangalore Rural Dist. In this regard it is hereby noticed that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 16.05.2026 at 11am. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 29.04.2026

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate: **Punyandha Maruthy DN**, Besides Vijayashree TVS Show Room Taluk Office Road, Doddabalapura Town-561203

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CRL MIS No. 45/2026
Beteween: Sri K.M Anjan Kumar S/o Late Dodda muniyappa @ Muniyappa Aged about 57 Years, Kangala pura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District **Petitioner.**
AND The Register of Birth and Death Rep. by the Tahashildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapur **Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioner as followed the above petition under section 13(3) and 14 of registration of birth and death act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his mother-in-law by name HANUMAKKA W/o CHIKKAHANUMANTHAIAH who died on 15.05.2004 at Kangalapura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk Bangalore Rural Dist. In this regard it is hereby noticed that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 16.05.2026 at 11am. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 29.04.2026

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate: **Punyandha Maruthy DN**, Besides Vijayashree TVS Show Room Taluk Office Road, Doddabalapura Town-561203

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CRL MIS No. 46/2026
Beteween: Sri K.M Anjan Kumar S/o Late Dodda muniyappa @ Muniyappa Aged about 57 Years, Kangala pura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District **Petitioner.**
AND The Register of Birth and Death Rep. by the Tahashildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapur **Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioner as followed the above petition under section 13(3) and 14 of registration of birth and death act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his Grand mother by name PAPAKKA W/o HANUMAIAH who died on 20.10.1960 at Kangalapura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk Bangalore Rural Dist. In this regard it is hereby noticed that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 16.05.2026 at 11am. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 29.04.2026

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate: **Punyandha Maruthy DN**, Besides Vijayashree TVS Show Room Taluk Office Road, Doddabalapura Town-561203

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CRL MIS No. 47/2026
Beteween: Sri K.M Anjan Kumar S/o Late Dodda muniyappa @ Muniyappa Aged about 57 Years, Kangala pura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District **Petitioner.**
AND The Register of Birth and Death Rep. by the Tahashildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapur **Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioner as followed the above petition under section 13(3) and 14 of registration of birth and death act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his Grand mother by name DALAMMA W/o HANUMAIAH who died on 16.10.1982 at Kangalapura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk Bangalore Rural Dist. In this regard it is hereby noticed that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 16.05.2026 at 11am. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 29.04.2026

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate: **Punyandha Maruthy DN**, Besides Vijayashree TVS Show Room Taluk Office Road, Doddabalapura Town-561203

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CRL MIS No. 48/2026
Beteween: Sri K.M Anjan Kumar S/o Late Dodda muniyappa @ Muniyappa Aged about 57 Years, Kangala pura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District **Petitioner.**
AND The Register of Birth and Death Rep. by the Tahashildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapur **Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioner as followed the above petition under section 13(3) and 14 of registration of birth and death act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his mother-in-law by name LAKKAMMA W/o NARASAPPA who died on 01.04.2004 at Kangalapura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobali, Doddaballapura Taluk Bangalore Rural Dist. In this regard it is hereby noticed that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 16.05.2026 at 11am. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 29.04.2026

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate: **Punyandha Maruthy DN**, Besides Vijayashree TVS Show Room Taluk Office Road, Doddabalapura Town-561203

QUICK READ

Dubai airport traffic falls 66% amid tensions

New Delhi

Dubai International Airport recorded steep decline in passenger traffic in March 2026 due to escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia linked to disruptions around Iran The airport saw volumes fall by about 66% compared with previous year with temporary operational suspensions following drone-related incidents near critical infrastructure First-quarter traffic dropped to around 25 lakh passengers marking a 21% year-on-year decline Despite setback officials said underlying travel demand remains strong and recovery is expected as capacity normalises India remained largest source market followed by Saudi Arabia United Kingdom and Pakistan with London Mumbai and Jeddah busiest routes.

Tech innovation driving India's new economic growth

New Delhi

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said technology-led innovation is shaping India's economic growth and future progress. Speaking at the 56th Foundation Day of the Department of Science and Technology, he stressed that science must move from labs to markets to create real impact. He noted that recent policy changes have opened sectors like space and nuclear energy to private players, boosting startups and industry growth. India is now seeing rapid progress in areas like satellite technology and emerging fields. The minister said collaboration between government, industry and academia is essential. He also highlighted the rise in startups and high-quality research, showing India's growing strength in global innovation.

Digital push transforms India's growing faith economy sector

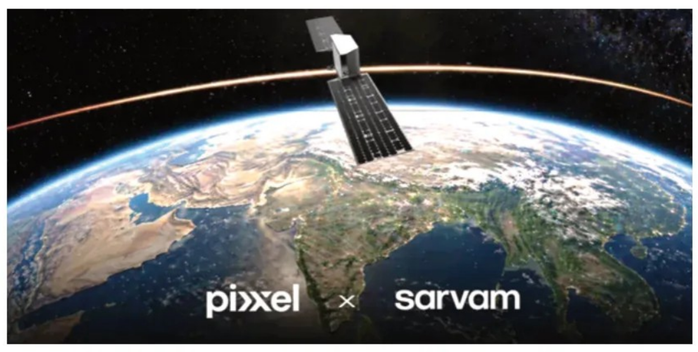
New Delhi

India's faith economy is embracing technology as Innovations Venture Studio joins hands with SwaDharma, earlier known as 3ioNetra, to build a "Dharma Stack." The platform aims to modernise temple systems and improve devotee services through digital tools. The initiative will support features like online donations, temple management, identity systems and data-based insights. It marks a shift as religious institutions adopt technology for better efficiency and reach. Experts say the move reflects rising interest in faith-tech, with investors backing digital solutions in traditional.

India to launch AI-powered orbital data centre satellite

India to launch AI-powered orbital data centre satellite through Pixxel and Sarvam partnership for advanced space computing

NEW DELHI



India is preparing to take a major step in space technology with the development of its first AI-powered orbital data centre satellite through a partnership between space-tech firm Pixxel and AI start-up Sarvam. The mission aims to bring high-performance artificial intelligence computing directly into orbit.

Under the collaboration, Pixxel will design, build, launch, and operate the satellite, while Sarvam will provide the artificial intelligence systems that will run onboard. The satellite, named Pathfinder, is expected to weigh around 200 kilograms and could be launched as early as the fourth quarter of 2026.

Unlike traditional satellites that rely on low-power onboard processing and transmit large volumes of raw data back to Earth, the Pathfinder will function as an orbital data centre. It will carry data-center-grade GPUs, similar to those used in advanced terrestrial AI systems, enabling real-time processing and inference directly in space.

The satellite will also be equipped with Pixxel's hyperspectral imaging camera, allowing it to capture high-resolution Earth data and analyse it in orbit. This capability is expected to reduce data transmission loads and deliver faster insights for applications such as environmental monitoring, agriculture management, disaster response, and infrastructure tracking.

Company officials stated that space-based computing can overcome limitations of Earth-based data centres, including constraints related to energy consumption, land availability, and scalability. The use of solar power in space is also expected to support continuous high-performance operations.

Sarvam highlighted that the mission extends its sovereign AI platform beyond Earth, enabling India-developed AI models to operate independently of foreign cloud infrastructure, strengthening technological autonomy.

The project will also test critical systems such as real-time AI inference, thermal control, power management, and space-based data workflows under extreme orbital conditions.The satellite is being developed at Pixxel's upcoming Gigapixxel facility, which is designed to scale production up to 100 satellites, marking a significant step in India's emerging space-tech and AI ecosystem.

Markets close higher amid global and domestic cues

NEW DELHI

Indian equity markets ended the trading session in positive territory on Monday, supported by strong global cues and domestic developments, including election-related sentiment. The benchmark indices witnessed steady buying throughout the day, reflecting investor optimism.The BSE Sensex closed at 77,269.40, gaining 355.90 points or 0.46%. Similarly, the Nifty 50 ended above the 24,100 mark at 24,119.30, up 121.75 points or 0.51 per cent.Key index contributors included Adani Ports, Adani Enterprises, Eicher Motors, Reliance Industries, and Jio Financial, which led the gains. On the other hand, stocks such as Bharti Airtel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Dr. Reddy's, ONGC, and TCS were among the top laggards.Sectorally, metal, realty, infrastructure, and pharma indices recorded gains of 0.5 to 1 per cent, while IT, media, and PSU banks ended in negative territory. Broader markets also showed strength, with both midcap and smallcap indices rising around 0.5 per cent.

Asian markets traded mostly positive, led by strong gains in South Korea and Taiwan, while European cues remained mixed. US futures also showed a combination of mild gains and losses.

In commodities, crude oil prices rose above USD 100 levels, while gold witnessed some profit booking. Analysts said market sentiment remained supported by better-than-expected corporate earnings and favourable political developments.Experts noted that while optimism persists, geopolitical tensions and oil price movements will continue to influence short-term market direction.

BHEL reports strong Q4FY26 results with 156% profit jump driven by robust power sector performance growth.

BHEL net profit surges 156% to ₹ 1,290 cr

NEW DELHI

State-owned engineering major Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) reported a sharp rise in its consolidated net profit for the March quarter of FY2025–26, driven mainly by strong performance in its power segment.

The company posted a net profit of Rs 1,290 crore in Q4FY26, marking a 156 per cent increase compared to Rs 504.45 crore in the same quarter last year. Revenue from operations also rose significantly by 37 per cent year-on-year to Rs 12,310 crore, up from Rs 8,993 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

The power business remained the key growth driver, contributing Rs 9,509.85 crore in revenue during the quarter, a jump of 53.6% over the previous year. The segment continued to dominate both quarterly and annual performance, reflecting sustained demand in the sector.

For the full financial year FY26, BHEL recorded a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,600.26 crore, nearly three times higher than Rs 533.90 crore in FY25.

Total annual income increased by 20 per cent to Rs 34,589.83 crore, compared to Rs 28,804.79 crore in the previous year.

The company's board also approved a final dividend of Rs 1.40 per equity share of Rs 2 face value for FY26.

Following the announcement, BHEL shares surged nearly 7 per cent on the BSE, closing at Rs 376.95. The stock has traded between a 52-week high of Rs 398.95 and a low of Rs 205.20, reflecting strong investor interest amid improved financial performance.

- Profit rises 156%
- Strong power sector growth
- Revenue increases sharply year-on-year
- FY26 annual profit surges
- Dividend declared for shareholders

India real estate investment hits $1.7 billion in Q1

NEW DELHI

India's real estate investment market recorded strong growth in the first quarter of calendar year 2026, with transaction volumes reaching $1.7 billion, according to a report by JLL India. This marks a 37% year-on-year increase, reflecting sustained investor confidence despite global economic uncertainties.

A key highlight of the quarter was the sharp rise in core asset acquisitions, which surged 178 per cent to $1.03 billion. The trend indicates a growing preference for stable, income-generating properties over higher-risk assets. Analysts say this shift reflects increased maturity in investor behaviour within India's property market.

The momentum is expected to continue into the second quarter, with core deals already reaching $1.48 billion, signalling sustained institutional interest. The office sector remained the dominant contributor, supported by strong operational performance and steady rental demand in key urban centres.

Experts from JLL noted that India's real estate market is undergoing a structural transformation, driven by resilient domestic capital and improving fundamentals. Institutional investment inflows have remained strong even amid global headwinds.

The sector has already witnessed record-breaking activity over 2024 and 2025, with total institutional capital inflows reaching $19.4 billion across the two years. A significant shift has also been observed in investor composition, with domestic institutions accounting for 52 per cent of market share in 2025, the first time since 2014 that local capital has overtaken foreign investors.

In Q1 2026 alone, domestic investors contributed 72 per cent of total investment volumes.

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) played a major role, deploying $2.8 billion, which accounted for nearly half of domestic capital inflows. Private equity firms also contributed significantly to the growth.

Overall, the outlook for India's real estate sector remains positive, supported by economic stability, infrastructure expansion, and increasing attractiveness to both domestic and global investors.

- India real estate hits $1.7B
- Core assets see strong growth
- Domestic investors dominate market share
- REITs drive major investments
- Sector outlook remains positive

RBI, IRDAI oppose bank entry commodity markets

MUMBAI

At a recent capital markets conference in Mumbai, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey stated that the Reserve Bank of India and insurance regulator IRDAI are not in favour of allowing banks and insurance companies to participate in the commodity derivatives market.

He said both the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) have expressed concerns and have not responded positively to SEBI's proposals in this regard. According to him, the regulators believe such exposure may not align well with the long-term nature of banking and insurance businesses.

Pandey noted that insurance firms operate on long-term investment horizons, and involvement in commodity derivatives could introduce risks that are difficult to manage within their existing frameworks. He added that the concerns raised by RBI and IRDAI are based on valid regulatory reasoning.

He also highlighted emerging risks in financial markets, pointing out that algorithm-driven trading systems can act faster than human oversight mechanisms. While artificial intelligence and digital platforms improve efficiency, they may also increase the risk of fraud or systemic vulnerabilities if not properly regulated.In addition, Pandey provided an update on the Central Know Your Customer (CKYC) 2.0 initiative, which aims to create a unified KYC framework across the financial sector. The project is being developed under the Central Registry of Securitisation Asset Reconstruction and Security Interest (CERSAI) with inputs from multiple regulators, including SEBI. The framework is expected to be finalised by July.He further reiterated that India's capital markets continue to strengthen as a key component of the financial system, supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals and a growing investor base.

SEOUL STOCKS SURGE PAST 5% ON CHIP RALLY

SEOUL

South Korean stocks jumped more than 5 percent on Monday, nearing the 7,000 mark, as strong buying in semiconductor shares lifted the market. The Korean currency also gained sharply against the US dollar.

The benchmark KOSPI rose 338.12 points, or 5.12%, to close at a record 6,936.99. Trading was heavy, with 864.3 million shares changing hands worth 41.3 trillion won. Despite the rally, declining stocks slightly outnumbered gainers.Foreign investors bought shares worth 3 trillion won, while institutions added 1.9 trillion won. Retail investors, however, sold a net 4.8 trillion won.The market opened higher after Donald Trump announced a plan to allow safe passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz amid tensions involving Iran. Later, concerns rose after Iran warned against any interference, but the market maintained its upward trend.Technology stocks led the rally. Samsung Electronics climbed 5.44%, while SK hynix surged 12.52% to a record level. Other chip-related firms also posted solid gains.Defence and automobile stocks moved higher, with Hyundai Motor and LG Energy Solution recording steady increases. However, biotechnology stocks declined during the session.

SEBI plans advisory on risks from Advanced AI

MUMBAI

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is preparing an advisory to warn about risks linked to next-generation artificial intelligence tools, Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said.

Speaking at a capital markets conference, Pandey explained that fast growth in AI is changing how financial markets work. While these tools improve speed and efficiency, they also bring new risks that can affect the entire system.

He pointed out that advanced AI systems are now being used to scan financial networks for weak points. Though such tools help detect problems quickly, they can also be misused to exploit these weaknesses on a large scale.

This makes risk management harder for both regulators and companies.

Pandey stressed that today's markets are closely connected, which increases the danger. A problem in one area can quickly spread and impact others. Because of this, risks should not be handled only at an individual company level. Even a small weakness can create wider issues for the market.

He urged financial firms to take responsibility by improving their cyber security systems. This includes constant monitoring, quick action to fix problems, and stronger protection against threats.

The SEBI chief said the upcoming advisory will focus on preparedness and response. It will not restrict the use of technology but will guide firms to adopt AI safely and responsibly.

He added that SEBI will continue working closely with market participants to understand new risks. The advisory will act as an early warning step, though no clear timeline or scope has been announced yet.

Indian banks ready for ECL framework implementation

NEW DELHI

Indian banks are well positioned to adopt the Reserve Bank of India's Expected Credit Loss (ECL) framework, with strong capital buffers expected to help absorb the initial impact, according to a report by CareEdge Ratings. The report highlighted that the banking sector currently maintains a robust Capital Adequacy Ratio of over 17 per cent and a Common Equity Tier I ratio exceeding 14.5%. These strong fundamentals provide sufficient cushion for the transition to the new provisioning system.

Under the revised framework issued by the Reserve Bank of India, commercial banks will need to shift to a forward-looking credit loss model. The new system, known as the Expected Credit Loss approach, is designed to improve risk recognition by requiring banks to estimate potential future losses on loans rather than relying solely on past defaults.The ECL-based provisioning norms are scheduled to come into effect from April 1, 2027, giving banks a transition period to adjust.

ATHER LOSS RISES

Ather Energy reports wider Q4 loss despite strong revenue growth

MUMBAI

Electric two-wheeler manufacturer Ather Energy reported a sequential increase in its net loss for the fourth quarter of FY26, even as it delivered strong year-on-year revenue growth driven by rising demand and continued expansion of its network across India.The company posted a net loss of Rs 100.23 crore in Q4 FY26, compared to a loss of Rs 84.64 crore in the previous quarter (Q3 FY26), according to its latest regulatory filing. However, on a yearly basis, the company showed significant improvement, with losses narrowing by 57 per cent from Rs 234.36 crore recorded in Q4 FY25.Revenue from operations grew sharply by 74 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,174.66 crore, up from Rs 676 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. The growth was driven by strong sales momentum in electric scooters and expansion of the company's service and distribution network across multiple cities.Despite higher revenues, total expenses also rose 42 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,314 crore, compared to Rs 922.15 crore in the same period last year. The increase was attributed to higher operating costs and continued investments in infrastructure, research, and market expansion.Loss per equity share improved significantly to Rs 2.62 from Rs 8.93 in the year-ago period, reflecting better operational efficiency despite continued losses. During FY26, Ather Energy expanded its retail presence aggressively, crossing more than 700 Experience Centres across India. The company also strengthened its charging ecosystem, providing access to over 5,000 public charging points across more than 395 cities. This includes over 3,675 fast chargers operated directly by the company in key urban markets.Following the earnings announcement, Ather Energy shares declined by around 1.87 per cent on the National Stock Exchange

Inter Milan clinch Serie A title with clinical dominance over rivals

Relentless consistency and strong defence power Inter to comfortable title triumph

MILAN

Inter Milan sealed their 21st Serie A title in commanding fashion, capping a season of dominance with a 2-0 win over Parma that left them an unassailable 12 points clear at the top.

Under the guidance of Cristian Chivu, Inter built their title charge on defensive solidity and attacking efficiency, emerging as the most consistent side in the league. Their triumph was effectively assured weeks ago as rivals faltered, turning the closing stages into a formality rather than a contest.

The Nerazzurri's success was driven by a potent strike partnership between Lautaro Martínez and Marcus Thuram, who scored 16 and 13 league goals respectively. Despite both forwards missing parts of the season through injury, Inter maintained their attacking rhythm, finishing with an impressive 82 goals — far ahead of closest challengers Napoli.

Equally crucial was their defensive strength. Anchored by Alessandro Bastoni and supported by a disciplined backline, Inter conceded just 31 goals, the best record in the league. The balance between attack and defence allowed Chivu's side to sustain pressure across all phases of the campaign.

Midfield contributions also proved vital, with Hakan Çalhanoğlu adding nine goals and controlling tempo in key matches. Inter's high-pressing system ensured they remained on the front foot, overwhelming opponents and limiting opportunities at the other end.

While Inter surged ahead, their closest competitors stumbled. Napoli's campaign was disrupted by injuries to key players, while AC Milan struggled for consistency amid tactical changes under returning coach Massimiliano Allegri.

A defining moment came in April, when Inter staged a dramatic comeback win against Como, showcasing

resilience even in adversity. By then, however, the title race had effectively been decided.

Unlike last season's dramatic finale, this campaign lacked suspense in its final weeks. Inter's relentless consistency turned the race into a one-sided affair, with the title sealed well before the final round.

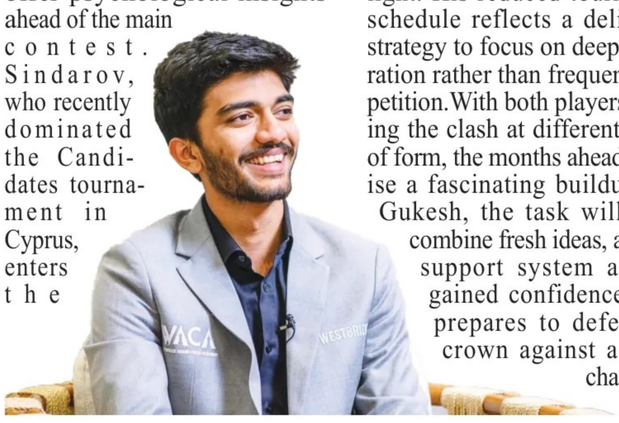
As celebrations erupted across Milan, Inter's 21st Scudetto stands as a testament to discipline, depth and a season executed with near-perfect precision.

Gukesh begins focused preparation for Sindarov title clash

Indian world champion starts training, plans new team ahead of showdown

CHENNAI

D Gukesh has begun specific preparations for his highly anticipated title clash against Javokhir Sindarov, marking the start of an intense build-up to one of the most intriguing battles in world chess. Gukesh's principal coach Grzegorz Gajewski confirmed that the training process is underway, though details remain closely guarded. The Indian, currently ranked World No. 19, has kept a relatively low competitive profile in 2026, focusing instead on preparation and recovery after a mixed run since winning the Classical world title in late 2024.The first glimpse of the champion-versus-challenger dynamic could come as early as this week, with both players set to feature in the Rapid and Blitz event in Warsaw. While it is unlikely they will reveal key opening ideas, even a brief encounter could offer psychological insights ahead of the main contest. Sindarov, who recently dominated the Candidates tournament in Cyprus, enters the match with strong momentum. In contrast, Gukesh has seen a dip in rating, losing over 50 points in the past year. His last Classical outing came at the Prague Chess Festival in March, and he has played sparingly since, including a Rapid event in Menorca.A crucial aspect of Gukesh's preparation will be assembling his support team. During his world championship victory, he was backed by a strong group including Pentala Harikrishna, Vincent Keymer and Jan-Krzysztof Duda. Whether the same core returns remains uncertain, especially as several of them have since climbed higher in global rankings.Despite the challenges, Gukesh has maintained a low profile, working quietly away from the spotlight. His reduced tournament schedule reflects a deliberate strategy to focus on deep preparation rather than frequent competition.With both players entering the clash at different stages of form, the months ahead promise a fascinating buildup. For Gukesh, the task will be to combine fresh ideas, a strong support system and regained confidence as he prepares to defend his crown against a rising challenger.



North Korean women's team to play in South Korea after eight years

SEOUL

In a rare moment of sporting engagement, a North Korean women's football club is set to play in South Korea later this month, marking the first such visit in eight years amid otherwise strained relations between the two Koreas.According to South Korea's Unification Ministry, the Pyongyang-based Naegohyang Women's FC will travel to face Suwon FC Women in the semifinals of the Asian Football Confederation Women's Champions League on May 20 in Suwon, just south of Seoul. The participation has been confirmed by the Asian Football Confederation, although North Korean state media has yet to officially acknowledge the trip.The match represents a significant, if limited, sporting exchange between North Korea and South Korea, whose relations have remained tense in recent years. The last time North Korean athletes competed in the South was in December 2018 during a table tennis event, part of a brief period of diplomatic thaw that also saw joint participation in the Winter Olympics earlier that year. For women's football specifically, this will be the first appearance by a North Korean side in South Korea since the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon. The upcoming fixture thus carries symbolic weight, even as broader political relations remain largely frozen.Ties between the two nations deteriorated sharply after 2019, when leader Kim Jong Un suspended diplomatic engagement with Seoul and Washington. Since then, Pyongyang has intensified efforts to curb South Korean cultural influence domestically, further widening the divide.Against this backdrop, the scheduled match is being viewed as a rare opening for people-to-people contact, even if limited to the sporting arena. Officials in Seoul have cautiously welcomed the development, emphasising the importance of sports in fostering dialogue and mutual understanding.

Chase Elliott wins at Texas, joins Reddick with multiple Cup victories

FORT WORTH

Chase Elliott held his nerve in the closing laps to win at Texas Motor Speedway, becoming only the second driver this season to register multiple victories in the NASCAR Cup Series.

Elliott surged ahead after a decisive late restart, using the inside line and a crucial push from teammate Alex Bowman to fend off Denny Hamlin. The Hendrick Motorsports driver maintained his lead over the final four laps to take the chequered flag, finishing just 0.407 seconds ahead of Hamlin.

"I knew if I didn't clear early, I'd be in trouble," Elliott said. "Alex gave me a great push, and that made the difference."

The victory marked Elliott's second win of the season and the 23rd of his career, putting him alongside Tyler Reddick as the only drivers with multiple wins so far this year. Notably, Elliott has now finished ahead of Hamlin in both of his victories this season.

Starting from 14th on the grid, Elliott steadily worked his way through the field, leading a race-high 87 laps. Behind him, Bowman recovered from an earlier spin to finish third, while Reddick, who has enjoyed a strong start to the campaign, came home fourth.

Hamlin acknowledged that the teamwork between Elliott and Bowman proved decisive. "It slowed my momentum and boosted his," he said. "Just one spot short."

Sinner thrashes Zverev in Madrid to claim fifth straight Masters title

MADRID

Jannik Sinner delivered a commanding performance to defeat Alexander Zverev 6-1, 6-2 in the Madrid Open final, securing a record fifth consecutive Masters 1000 title and reinforcing his dominance on the men's tour.

The 24-year-old Italian needed just 57 minutes to dismantle Zverev, turning a highly anticipated clash into a one-sided affair. With the victory, Sinner became the first player to win the opening four Masters events of a season, adding Madrid to his titles at Indian Wells, Miami and Monte Carlo, following his triumph in Paris late last year.

From the outset, Sinner dictated proceedings with precision and power. He broke Zverev early in the first set and raced to a 4-0 lead, conceding only five points in the opening five games. His aggressive baseline play and consistency left the German struggling to settle, as Sinner closed the set in just 25 minutes.The second set offered little respite for Zverev. Although he briefly held serve, Sinner quickly regained control, breaking in the third game and maintaining relentless pressure. Another break sealed the contest, with the Italian serving out the match comfortably to complete a dominant victory.The win marked Sinner's 10th triumph in 14 meetings against Zverev and extended his current winning streak over the German to nine matches. Since losing to Zverev at the 2023 US Open, Sinner has asserted near-complete control in their rivalry.Speaking after the match, Zverev acknowledged the challenge of facing the world No. 1 in such form. "Playing against him right now is extremely difficult. He gives us no chance," he said during the trophy ceremony. Sinner's remarkable run spans multiple surfaces, underlining his versatility and consistency at the highest level. His ability to seamlessly transition from hard courts to clay has set him apart from his contemporaries.

Baranica Elangovan betters national pole vault record at Indian Indoor Open

BENGALURU

Baranica Elangovan continued her dominance in Indian pole vaulting by setting a new national record at the Indian Indoor Open, clearing 4.23 metres in Bhubaneswar.

The 29-year-old improved upon her own previous record of 4.22m, which she had set at the same venue — Kalinga Indoor Athletics Stadium — during the National Indoor Championships in March. The latest effort underlined her consistency and steady technical progress in the discipline.Baranica emphasised that her focus was not solely on performance but on refining technique as part of a long-term plan. "I was sticking to my technique as we are laying the foundation for long-term goals. It was important to replicate what I learned in training," she said after the event.Her improvement within just over a month highlights her upward trajectory.

Despite achieving another milestone, the Tamil Nadu athlete remains ambitious, setting her sights on clearing 4.30m in the near future. "I have set the bar high for myself.

That's how you keep pushing for better," she added.In the same event, Nitika Akare of Madhya Pradesh and Blessy Kunjumon of Kerala finished second and third respectively, both clearing 3.90m, with Akare taking the higher spot on countback.

The competition also saw strong performances in combined events.

Thowfeeq N of NCOE Thiruvananthapuram clinched the men's heptathlon title with 5,350 points, ahead of Usaid Khan and Jashbir Nayak.In the women's pentathlon, Purnima Hembram emerged victorious with 3,835 points, finishing ahead of Isha Chander Prakash and Bidisha Kundu.

Earlier in the meet, Kuldeep Kumar had also set a new men's national record in pole vault, marking a strong outing for Indian athletics.Baranica's latest achievement reinforces her position as the country's leading pole vaulter and signals promising progress as she builds towards higher international benchmarks.

Varun Chakravarthy Cheers Vijay's TVK Election Debut

CHENNAI

KKR spinner Varun Chakravarthy reacted on social media after actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) made a strong debut in the Tamil Nadu elections. The party secured significant gains in its first major electoral contest, drawing widespread attention across the state. Chakravarthy shared an old picture with Vijay on Instagram, captioning it "Anna," which quickly went viral among fans. The spinner, a known admirer of Vijay, has earlier spoken about his fondness for Tamil cinema icons. The post came as TVK's performance sparked celebrations among supporters, marking a notable political entry for the actor-turned-politician.

Brazilian forward praises Carrick's influence as United secure Champions League return

Carrick has Ferguson magic, says Cunha after United's resurgence

MANCHESTER

Matheus Cunha believes interim manager Michael Carrick has brought back elements of the legendary Alex Ferguson era, helping Manchester United rediscover their identity following a strong run of results.

Cunha's comments came after United's dramatic 3-2 win over Liverpool at Old Trafford, a result that secured Champions League qualification with three games to spare. The Brazilian forward scored the opening goal, continuing his impressive debut season at the club.Carrick, who took charge after the departure of Ruben Amorim in January, has overseen a remarkable turnaround, winning 10 of his 14 matches.

The run has put him in contention for the permanent managerial role, with players openly backing his appointment."I sat on the bench with him, and the way he teaches everyone is amazing," Cunha said.

"He has the magic from the Ferguson times. He brings that feeling to us — what it means to be part of this club."

Carrick was part of United's most successful modern era under Ferguson, winning five Premier League titles and the Champions League. Cunha believes that connection has been vital in restoring belief within the squad. Despite securing a return to Europe's elite competition, Carrick has urged his players to remain focused.

United are still chasing a top-three finish and could end the season closer to the title winners than at any point since Ferguson's retirement in 2013.

"The Champions League without this club is not the same," Cunha said. "But it's not just about qualifying — we need to fight for titles."Cunha, who joined from Wolves last summer, has scored nine goals this season, including crucial winners against Arsenal and Chelsea.

His impact has justified the club's investment and added attacking spark. Off the field, uncertainty remains over the future of veteran midfielder Casemiro, though Cunha hinted that a final decision is yet to be made.

Djokovic, Sinner, Sabalenka lead player dissent over French Open prize money

NEW DELHI

Leading tennis players including Novak Djokovic, Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka have voiced strong dissatisfaction over prize money for this year's French Open, highlighting concerns about declining revenue share and broader player welfare issues.

In a joint statement released ahead of the clay-court Grand Slam, players criticised organisers for what they described as an inadequate increase in the prize pool. The total purse has been raised by 10% to €61.7 million, but players argue that this does not reflect the tournament's growing revenues.

According to the statement, the players' share of tournament revenue has dropped from 15.5% in 2024 to a projected 14.9% in 2026. With Roland Garros reportedly generating close to €400 million annually, players believe the current distribution falls well short of their demand for a 22% share — a figure they say would align Grand Slams with leading ATP and WTA events.

The issue extends beyond prize money. Players have also expressed frustration over a lack of progress on key demands, including improved representation in decision-making, enhanced health support systems and long-term pension structures.

While the list of names associated with the broader movement includes some of the sport's biggest stars, it has been clarified that Djokovic did not sign the latest statement, despite being part of earlier discussions on the issue.

The prize breakdown for the 2026 edition sees singles champions set to earn €2.8 million, with runners-up receiving €1.4 million. Semifinalists will take home €750,000, while first-round exits are guaranteed €87,000. Doubles and mixed doubles payouts have also seen modest increases.

However, players point out that last year's US Open saw a significantly larger 20% rise in prize money, further fuelling dissatisfaction with Roland Garros organisers.

With the tournament set to begin on May 24, the dispute casts a shadow over preparations, raising questions about the balance between commercial success and player compensation in modern tennis.

Modi lauds Vijay for TN blockbuster debute

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi congratulate Vijay as his TVK party shatters Tamil Nadu's traditional political duopoly

CHENNAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached out to congratulate actor-turned-politician Vijay after his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), made a stunning debut in the 2026 Assembly elections. As early trends showed the new party making a serious impact across Tamil Nadu, the Prime Minister noted that such a strong performance highlights a healthy and growing democratic spirit in the region.

The Prime Minister praised the TVK for entering the tough world of electoral politics with such noticeable force. He suggested that the party's success reflects a shift in how people are participating in elections today. This high-profile acknowledgment from the nation's leader adds significant weight to Vijay's transition from the silver screen to the state assembly.

Responding to the wave of support, Vijay thanked his followers for their immense trust. He remained humble despite the victory, stating that his political journey has only just begun. He promised that his party would remain dedicated to the people, with a primary focus on creating opportunities for the youth and driving development across the state.

Experts believe this election marks a major turning point for Tamil Nadu.

For decades, the state was a two-sided battle between established giants, but the TVK has now added a fresh dimension to the landscape. Observers say this result proves that younger voters are looking for new voices.

With this debut, Vijay has not only shaken up the status quo but has also permanently changed the future of politics in the South.

RAHUL PRAISES VIJAY'S HISTORIC WIN

CHENNAI

In a notable political gesture, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi congratulated actor-turned-politician Vijay on his party's strong debut in the 2026 Assembly elections. Senior Congress MP Jairam Ramesh said the Leader of Opposition spoke to the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam chief after the results. The 2026 polls changed Tamil Nadu politics as Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam made a strong entry, challenging Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam dominance. The party gained strong youth support and became a major new force in the state. Congress observer Jairam Ramesh said Gandhi appreciated the campaign energy and public response. Despite losses, the message is seen as respect for voters' mandate and democratic spirit. Analysts say this may influence future alliances in Tamil Nadu politics. It also signals possible cooperation changes as TVK grows in influence across the state in coming years. Party leaders said they will continue engaging with all parties to strengthen democratic values in Tamil Nadu.

Kamal Haasan stands by Stalin after defeat

Kamal Haasan backs MK Stalin after the DMK's defeat to Vijay's TVK, praising his resilience and expressing confidence that the veteran leader will rise again.

CHENNAI

In a powerful show of friendship and political loyalty, actor-turned-politician Kamal Haasan has voiced strong support for MK Stalin following the DMK's unexpected loss in the state elections. The political landscape shifted dramatically as the newcomer party, TVK, led by actor Vijay, secured a major victory, leaving the long-standing DMK to face a tough road ahead.

Despite the setback, Kamal Haasan remained firm in his belief in the DMK leader's resilience. Speaking to supporters and the press, Haasan described Stalin as a "dear friend" who possesses a rare strength of character. He noted that Stalin is a leader who remains humble in times of success and unshaken when things go wrong.

"MK Stalin is not one to exult in victory. Nor is he one to wilt in defeat," Haasan stated during his address. He reassured the public that this loss is only temporary, adding with confidence, "He will fight again. He will win again."

The DMK's defeat marks a historic moment in the region's politics, as the newly formed TVK managed to capture the hearts of voters. However, Haasan's message focuses on the long game, reminding everyone that seasoned leaders often find their greatest strength after a fall.

This public backing highlights the deep bond between the two leaders. As the state prepares for a new political era, Haasan's words serve as a reminder that the spirit of a fighter is never truly defeated by a single election result.

Why Vijay succeeded where other icons failed

CHENNAI

Actor Vijay has achieved what other superstars could only dream of by leading his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), to become the single largest party in Tamil Nadu. While legends like Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan struggled to turn their fame into votes, Vijay's "blockbuster" debut has broken a 49-year jinx, marking the most successful transition from cinema to power since MGR in 1977.

Experts say Vijay's success came down to clear messaging. Unlike Rajinikanth, who hesitated for years, or Kamal Haasan, whose party remained restricted to cities, Vijay showed he was serious by quitting his lucrative acting career entirely.

By putting his three-decade career at stake, he convinced voters that his political journey was not just a "cameo" appearance but a full-time commitment.

Another masterstroke was his refusal to join hands with established giants like the DMK or AIADMK. By standing alone, he projected himself as a "clean alternative" to the traditional parties. This independence, combined with a decade of grassroots social work by his 85,000 fan clubs, gave him a massive head start in organizational strength that his predecessors lacked.

Finally, age played a major role. At 51, Vijay is seen as a "Gen Z" leader compared to the much older stars who tried before him.

With nearly half of the state's voters under the age of 40, his youthful energy and modern social media presence helped him capture the hearts of the new generation, turning a movie-star craze into a historic political revolution.

Former IRS officer leads big in Tiruchengodu

TIRUCHENGODU

A former taxman is now making a major mark in the world of politics. KG Arunraj, a former Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, has taken a massive lead in the Tiruchengodu Assembly constituency during the 2026 elections. Representing the newly formed Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), Arunraj's transition from a high-ranking government official to a popular political figure has become one of the most talked-about stories of the day.

Having spent years serving in the Income Tax department across Tamil Nadu, Bihar, and Maharashtra, Arunraj is no stranger to complex systems and public service. However, this election marks his first time on the ballot. Early counting rounds show him comfortably ahead of his rivals from established parties, a result that has stunned local political veterans.

His supporters believe his background in administration and his reputation for integrity are what resonated with voters. In a region traditionally dominated by career politicians, many locals expressed that they were ready for a leader who understands the technical side of governance. Arunraj's campaign focused heavily on transparency and professional management, which seems to have struck a chord with the youth and educated professionals in the district.

Driver's son leads big for TVK

CHENNAI

In a story that reads like a movie script, Sabarinathan R, the son of TVK chief Vijay's longtime driver, has taken a commanding lead in the Virugampakkam Assembly constituency. As the 2026 election results pour in, the 30-year-old newcomer is outpacing seasoned politicians from major established parties, proving that the state's political landscape is undergoing a massive shift.

Sabarinathan's father, Rajendran, has been a trusted aide and driver for the actor-turned-politician Vijay for over fifteen years. When Vijay launched his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), he surprised many by giving a ticket to Sabarinathan. This decision was seen as a bold move to empower common citizens over political dynasties. Today, that gamble seems to be paying off as Sabarinathan holds a significant margin over his closest rivals.

The young candidate, who has a background in professional studies, ran a campaign rooted in local issues and his humble beginnings. His lead in Virugampakkam, a key urban seat, is being hailed by supporters as a "victory for the common man." The atmosphere at his campaign office is filled with joy, as volunteers celebrate what they call the "people's mandate."

Political analysts say this result is a testament to the trust Vijay's supporters place in his vision. By fielding the son of a staff member, Vijay has sent a strong message about loyalty and grassroots representation.

Annamalai hails big change in TN

CHENNAI

In a gracious show of sportsmanship, BJP leader K. Annamalai has officially accepted the people's verdict following the 2026 Assembly elections. As results showed a massive shift in the state's political landscape, Annamalai took to social media to congratulate actor-turned-politician Vijay and his party, TVK, for what he described as a "spectacular debut."

Annamalai, known for his aggressive campaigning, took a humble tone as the scale of the TVK victory became clear. "I bow down to the people of Tamil Nadu for your verdict," he stated. He expressed a sense of pride in his home state, noting that he was happy to see the citizens speaking in one voice to demand a new direction for the region.

The BJP leader highlighted that the results represent more than just a win for one party, they signal a "generational shift" in politics. He praised the voters for saying "no" to traditional practices like the buying of votes and dynastic rule. According to Annamalai, anyone who can bring about such a fundamental change has done a great service to the people of TN.

While the BJP-led alliance faced a tough challenge in this election, Annamalai's focus remained on the democratic process. He wished Vijay well, hoping the new leader would have the strength to fulfill his promises. As the state moves toward this fresh chapter, Annamalai's message underscores a rare moment of unity among rivals, acknowledging that the people's will remains the ultimate authority.

NDA retains Puducherry as Rangasamy wins

PUDUCHERRY

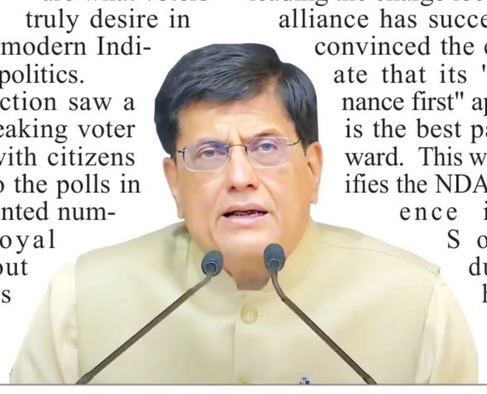
Union Minister Piyush Goyal has praised the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) for its projected victory in the Puducherry Assembly elections, attributing the success to a solid agenda of growth. As counting trends showed the alliance moving toward a comfortable majority, Goyal emphasized that the results are a direct reflection of the public's trust in the government's consistent focus on development.

Piyush Goyal credits the NDA's Puducherry victory to people-centric governance and growth, stating the record-breaking turnout confirms public trust in the alliance's stable, development-led leadership.

The senior leader noted that the NDA's victory stems from its "people-centric" policies, which have resonated with voters across the Union Territory. By prioritizing infrastructure and welfare, the alliance managed to maintain its stronghold despite a shifting political landscape in the region. Goyal's remarks underscore the alliance's narrative that stable leadership and a clear economic roadmap are what voters truly desire in modern Indian politics.

The election saw a record-breaking voter turnout, with citizens heading to the polls in unprecedented numbers. Goyal pointed out that this high participation reinforces the democratic mandate for the NDA to form the next government. He stated that the victory is not just about numbers but about a shared vision for a more prosperous and modernized Puducherry.

As the final tallies are confirmed, the NDA's performance in the Union Territory stands as a significant win for the central leadership. With Chief Minister N. Rangasamy leading the charge locally, the alliance has successfully convinced the electorate that its "governance first" approach is the best path forward. This win solidifies the NDA's influence in the South during a historic election cycle.



Oppn split helps NDA retain Puducherry

PUDUCHERRY

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has secured a clear path to power in Puducherry after the 2026 Assembly elections. Final counting trends showed a divided opposition unable to challenge the ruling alliance.

The Congress-DMK combine and the new party TVK failed to unite, leading to a split mandate. The NDA, led by Chief Minister N. Rangasamy, benefited from this fragmentation and moved comfortably toward majority. DMK won 4 seats and led in one more, while Congress managed only one seat in the Union Territory. Actor Vijay's TVK made a small entry by winning two seats, showing limited but visible presence.

Three independent candidates also won, adding to the mixed result across constituencies. Smaller parties like NMK had little impact on overall results. Analysts said vote splitting helped NDA win several close contests easily. Opposition leaders now face the challenge of rebuilding unity for future elections in Puducherry state ahead going forward.

18 SEATS SEAL NDA PUDUCHERRY WIN

PUDUCHERRY

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has crossed the majority mark in the 30-member Assembly, clearing the way to form the government after a close election. The AINRC has emerged as the leading partner, winning 9 seats and leading in 3 more, taking its total strength to 12. The BJP has secured 3 wins and is ahead in one seat, while LJK and AIADMK have won one seat each. Together, the alliance has reached 18 seats, well above the required 16 for majority. The result shows strong coordination within the NDA camp, even as smaller parties and independents split the opposition vote. Political observers say the fragmented opposition helped the ruling alliance maintain its advantage across key constituencies. With numbers now clear, the NDA is set to continue governance with a stable majority in the Union Territory going forward in Puducherry political landscape for the next term ahead.

Rajavelu takes out victory ride with supporters

PUDUCHERRY

AINRC candidate P Rajavelu celebrated his election victory with party workers and supporters on the ground. The celebrations showed strong enthusiasm after his win. Party members gathered to congratulate him and expressed happiness over the result. The AINRC has performed well as part of the BJP+ alliance and continues to contribute to its overall tally. Leaders said the victory reflects public trust in the candidate and the party. Counting is still going on in other constituencies, and more results are expected soon.

Embalam voters hand Mohandoss big win

EMBALAM

NR Congress (AINRC) workers celebrated after their candidate E Mohandoss won the Embalam Assembly seat. Party supporters gathered in large numbers and marked the victory with cheers and celebrations. Leaders said the win shows strong support for the party in the constituency. The result also adds to the BJP+ alliance tally, strengthening its overall position as counting continues. More constituency-wise results are still being announced. Party members expressed confidence that their performance reflects voter trust and steady support on the ground. The celebrations continued through the evening as supporters welcomed the outcome with excitement today across region.

AIADMK opens account in Oupalam

OUPALAM

AIADMK candidate A Anbalagan has won the Oupalam Assembly seat by a margin of 1,026 votes. The result gives the party its first win in the region and adds to the BJP+ alliance tally in the ongoing election. The contest was closely fought across Puducherry constituencies, showing strong competition between major political groups. Voters turned out in large numbers and the result was watched closely by party workers and supporters across the Union Territory. Leaders from AIADMK welcomed the victory, saying it reflects growing support in the area.

Historic defeat ends left rule in India

The historic 2026 Keralam election loss marks the end of Communist state rule, signalling a major Indian political shift

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

India enters a new political era as the Left Front lost its final stronghold in Kerala. For the first time in nearly 50 years, no Indian state will be led by a Communist chief minister. This shift marks the end of a long chapter that began with high hopes in the 1950s.

The Left's journey was once full of milestones. In 1957, Kerala made history by electing the world's first Communist government through a democratic vote. Later, the CPI(M) ruled West Bengal for a record-breaking 34 years under leaders like

Jyoti Basu. Tripura also remained a fortress for decades. At their peak in 2004, the Left held 59 seats in Parliament, enough to influence national policies and major international deals.

However, the tide began to turn in 2011 when they lost West Bengal to the Trinamool Congress. This was followed by a 2018 defeat in Tripura against the BJP. As their presence in Parliament dwindled to just a few seats, Kerala remained the lone survivor of their legacy.

The 2026 election result in Kerala has finally closed that door. Political experts note that this is not just a loss of a state, but a sign of a changing national mood. Without a single state government to lead, the Left now faces its greatest challenge yet: finding a way to stay relevant in a rapidly evolving India. This verdict marks a definitive conclusion to a distinct and influential period in Indian democracy.

Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra celebrate a decisive UDF victory in Kerala, promising transformative growth and transparent governance

RG CELEBRATES UDF SWEEP

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the people of Kerala, hailing the election results as a "truly decisive mandate" for the United Democratic Front.

As the UDF surged toward a major victory, Gandhi praised the collective spirit of the voters for choosing a new path for the state's future.

In a statement following the latest tallies, Gandhi offered his warmest congratulations to the local party leaders and grassroots workers. He credited their success to a hard-fought and well-executed campaign that resonated with people across every district. According to Gandhi, this victory is not just about numbers but about a clear vision to harness the immense talent and potential of the Keralite people.

The former Wayanad MP emphasized that the incoming UDF government is committed to a fresh start, focusing on growth and opportunities that had been overlooked. He noted that the mandate gives the coalition the strength to implement meaningful changes and address the core concerns of the youth and working class.

"Kerala has always shown the way with its wisdom," Gandhi remarked, adding that he is eager to visit the state very soon to personally thank his supporters and celebrate the win. As the state prepares for a transition in power, Gandhi's message underscored a sense of hope and renewal. He promised that the new administration would work tirelessly to live up to the high expectations set by this historic and overwhelming public endorsement.

Priyanka Vadra thanks Keralam for strong mandate

WAYANAD

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra thanked the people of Kerala for their strong and warm support to the United Democratic Front. She said the trust shown by voters will guide the alliance's work over the next five years. In a message posted on social media, she called the result a clear sign of people's faith in the UDF's plans and leadership. Speaking about Wayanad, she said the alliance winning all seven seats in the district was a big and clear mandate. She promised that the team would work together to bring steady development, better services, and more opportunities for local people. She added that the elected representatives will stay united and focused on public needs, and will work with honesty and care to meet expectations. She urged party workers to remain connected with communities and listen to everyday concerns, saying people's voices will remain at the center of every decision.

Anti-incumbency helps UDF romp home

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

KC Venugopal said that a strong anti-incumbency mood among voters helped the United Democratic Front perform well in the elections. He stated that many people were unhappy with the ruling Left Democratic Front government, which led to a clear shift in support. Speaking during the counting of votes, Venugopal said the alliance used this public mood effectively. He also shared that the popularity of senior Congress leaders like Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra influenced many voters in the state. He added that people in Kerala showed strong support for these leaders. Venugopal further claimed that dissatisfaction with the government's work and allegations of corruption pushed voters to favour the UDF, leading to its strong performance in the state.

Cong chief promises bright new era for Keralam

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge expressed deep gratitude to the people of Kerala following a major electoral victory for the United Democratic Front (UDF).

As the coalition secured a commanding mandate, Kharge declared that "true welfare begins now," signaling a fresh start for the state's governance and a move toward more inclusive policies.

The veteran leader described the election results as a crucial turning point. He believe the verdict clearly shows that voters have regained confidence in a development model that puts the needs of regular citizens first. Kharge emphasized that the party is now fully committed to restoring Kerala's "lost glory" by focusing on welfare-driven initiatives that leave no community behind.

In his emotional address, Kharge took a moment to praise the tireless efforts of party workers, local leaders, and political allies. He noted that their relentless campaigning on the ground was the backbone of this success. He suggested that the win was not just a political shift, but a loud call from the public for more transparent and responsive leadership.

As the UDF prepares to take the reins of power, the Congress president reassured the public that the incoming government would prioritize the state's economic and social health. By moving away from previous controversies and focusing on people-centric growth, Kharge hopes to usher in a period of stability. This victory marks a significant comeback for the Congress in the south, setting a hopeful tone for its future.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge celebrates the UDF's decisive Kerala victory, promising inclusive welfare, transparent leadership, and economic restoration to usher in a bright new era

New leaders emerge as Kerala chooses change

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The projected victory for the United Democratic Front (UDF) is being hailed as more than a simple change in government, it represents a major generational shift in Kerala's political landscape.

For decades, the state's politics were defined by legendary figures like K Karunakaran and Oommen Chandy. Today, a new wave of leadership is ready to take the reins.

As the alliance moves closer to officially forming the government, the focus has shifted toward the fresh faces leading the charge. Figures such as V. D. Satheesan, Sunny Joseph, Ramesh Chennithala, and K. C. Venugopal have been at the forefront of this successful campaign. Their rise signals a transition into a modern era of governance that aims to balance traditional values with the aspirations of a younger, more demanding electorate.

The massive win has sparked intense discussions across the state regarding who will be named the next Chief Minister. While seasoned leaders remain influential, there is a clear appetite for a leadership style that is responsive and transparent. Political analysts suggest that this mandate is a call for a more inclusive approach to solving the state's economic and social challenges.

With the era of the old stalwarts moving into the history books, the UDF now faces the task of fulfilling its bold campaign promises. The people of Kerala have placed their trust in this new guard, hoping for a government that prioritizes talent and growth. This election marks the beginning of a fresh chapter for the state.

RC'S NEMOM WIN BOOSTS BJP'S KERALA PRESENCE

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Rajeev Chandrasekhar of the Bharatiya Janata Party won the Nemom seat, giving his party its second win in Kerala. He defeated senior CPI(M) leader and minister V. Sivankutty after a close contest. The seat was keenly watched across the state. Congress candidate K. S. Sabarinadhan finished third. The result boosts BJP's presence in the assembly, where it has long struggled. Party leaders said support is growing among voters. Observers feel it may hint at changing voting patterns, though bigger trends will take time to become clear. In coming elections, parties will watch such shifts very closely.

Cong leaders secure massive victories in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The United Democratic Front celebrated two major victories as veteran leader Ramesh Chennithala and rising star Chandy Oommen swept their respective constituencies. These wins have added significant momentum to the coalition's march toward forming the next government. The results highlight a mix of established political dominance and a powerful legacy continuing in the state.

In Haripad, senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala proved his lasting popularity by defeating CPI candidate TT Jismon. After 15 intense rounds of counting, Chennithala finished with 68,184 votes, securing a comfortable winning margin of 23,377. This victory reaffirms his position as a central figure in Kerala's political landscape and reflects the deep trust local voters continue to place in his leadership and experience.

Meanwhile, in Puthuppally, Chandy Oommen achieved a record-breaking win that signaled a total sweep for the party. The son of the late former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, he defeated his CPI(M) rival, K. M. Radhakrishnan, by a staggering 52,907 votes. This massive margin suggests that the legacy of his father remains a potent force in the region, combined with a strong public desire for the UDF's vision.

SARMA CELEBRATES BJP HAT-TRICK IN ASSAM

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma celebrates BJP's historic third consecutive Assam victory, citing voter trust in continued regional development

GUWAHATI

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma led a joyous celebration as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured a historic third consecutive victory in the Assam Assembly elections.

Surrounded by cheering party workers and colleagues, Sarma hailed the result as a testament to the state's continued faith in the "double engine" governance model.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah described the victory as a massive "landslide win" for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). He noted that the mandate is a clear reflection of the people's growing trust in the development path set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Sarma. Shah emphasized that Assam is now moving away from its troubled past toward a future defined by "hope and development."

The Home Minister extended his congratulations to the national BJP President Nitin Nabin, Chief Minister Sarma, and State President Dilip Saikia. He credited the victory to the relentless dedication of party workers on the ground. According to Shah, the win reinforces the idea that citizens value stability, infrastructure growth, and decisive leadership.

For Sarma, this win marks a personal milestone, solidifying his role as a key architect of the party's success in Northeast India. The mandate ensures that the current administration will continue its projects focused on regional growth and cultural identity. As celebrations continue across the state, party leaders have promised to work even harder to fulfill the high expectations of the voters who have returned them to power for a record third term.

Sarma links Bengal win to North East security

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma thanked the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister after the party's victory in West Bengal. He said the win would help improve security across the Northeast region. Sarma stated that political strength in Bengal plays an important role in maintaining peace and stability in nearby states. He added that better coordination between states could help tackle security challenges more effectively. Party leaders welcomed his remarks and called the result important. Observers say such statements highlight the link between political outcomes and regional security concerns in the country.

Shah hails third Assam landslide win

GUWAHATI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah celebrated a historic victory, calling the NDA's third consecutive win in Assam a massive "landslide."

He stated that the election results prove the deep trust people have in the "double engine government" led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

According to Shah, this decisive mandate is a clear sign that Assam is moving away from past challenges and heading toward a future of "hope and development." The Home Minister praised the combined efforts of the central and state governments, noting that their shared vision for growth has resonated strongly with the electorate. He emphasized that the victory belongs to the citizens who chose stability and progress over all else.

Shah also extended his heartfelt congratulations to the top leadership, including BJP President Nitin Nabin, Chief Minister Sarma, and Assam BJP Chief Dilip Saikia. He gave special credit to the thousands of party workers who campaigned tirelessly across the state to secure this record-breaking win.

For the BJP, this third term represents a powerful endorsement of their policies over the last decade. Leaders believe the result highlights the success of their infrastructure projects and welfare programs. As the party prepares to lead Assam once again, the Home Minister promised that the administration would continue to work with speed and integrity to fulfill the aspirations of every resident. This victory solidifies the BJP's stronghold in the Northeast and sets a confident tone for the years ahead.

BJP's Goswami beats Cong' Gogoi in Assam

GUWAHATI

Assam Congress chief and Lok Sabha MP Gaurav Gogoi lost the Jorhat Assembly segment contest to BJP's Hitendra Nath Goswami by 23,182 votes. According to Election Commission, Gogoi secured 46,257 votes, while Goswami got 69,439 votes. The Jorhat Assembly segment comes under Jorhat parliamentary constituency represented by Gogoi in Lok Sabha. The result marks a setback for Congress in the region. BJP supporters welcomed the victory,

saying it reflects public trust. Party workers celebrated the win, while Congress leaders expressed disappointment over the outcome and vowed to review performance in coming days in future elections ahead.

Badruddin Ajmal takes Assam's Binnakandi

BINNAKANDI

AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal is leading against Assam Jatiya Parishad candidate Rejaul Karim Choudhury in the Binnakandi Assembly constituency. According to Election Commission trends after the seventh round of counting, he is ahead by 10,253 votes. The result shows a strong lead for Ajmal as counting continues in the constituency, with supporters closely watching the outcome. Party workers from AIUDF have expressed confidence.

IPL 2026: RCB's Phil Salt flies to England for scans, return uncertain

BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bengaluru have been dealt a fresh concern in IPL 2026 with opener Phil Salt flying back to England for medical scans on a finger injury, casting doubt over his immediate return to the tournament.Salt, who has already missed three matches, travelled to the United Kingdom for further assessment after sustaining the injury during RCB's clash against Delhi Capitals on April 18. The wicketkeeper-batter reportedly hurt a finger on his left hand while attempting a diving stop near the boundary, an effort that has since sidelined him during a crucial phase of the season.The England international had been one of RCB's standout performers early in the campaign, scoring 202 runs in six innings at a striking rate of 168.33. His aggressive starts at the top had provided the team with early momentum, making his absence particularly significant as the league stage intensifies.In Salt's absence, RCB have been forced to rework their opening combination. Youngster Jacob Bethell has been drafted in to partner Virat Kohli, but the results have been inconsistent, with the side struggling to replicate the explosive starts that Salt regularly delivered. Jordan Cox remains another option, though the team management appears keen to persist with Bethell for now.

Finger injury forces Salt home, leaving RCB reshuffling top order plans

The timing of the injury has complicated RCB's campaign, especially as they look to build momentum in the second half of the tournament. With competition for playoff spots tightening, instability at the top order could prove costly.While RCB have not officially disclosed the severity of the injury, Salt's return to England suggests a cautious approach from both the franchise and the England and Wales Cricket Board.

Lost wickets at crucial times, says SRH coach Vettori

HYDERABAD

Early momentum slipped away as SRH faltered at key moments

Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Daniel Vettori admitted that timely wickets derailed his side's plans against Kolkata Knight Riders in their IPL 2026 clash.

Despite chasing a modest 165, SRH struggled to maintain momentum through the innings, eventually falling short as KKR executed their plans effectively. Reflecting on the game, Vettori pointed to the inability to build partnerships after a promising start as the turning point.

"We got off to a great start but couldn't capitalise on that. We lost wickets at crucial times," he said after the match. "160 is incredibly difficult to defend even if the wicket was a bit slow, but we had enough fight after the powerplay to give ourselves a chance."The chase, though within reach, saw regular interruptions as key batters failed to convert starts. Vettori highlighted that dismissals of top-order players halted progress just when acceleration was needed. "In T20 cricket, even if you have momentum, losing wickets makes it really hard to regain control," he added.

He specifically pointed to the departures of Travis Head, Ishan Kishan and Heinrich Klaasen as critical moments in the match. "Had any of them carried on, the result might have been different," Vettori noted.KKR's spin duo played a decisive role in tightening the game. Varun Chakravarthy led the charge with three wickets, while Sunil Narine provided strong support, applying pressure through the middle overs.

"Chakravarthy was able to take wickets even when we tried to put him under pressure early," Vettori observed, praising the opposition's discipline with the ball.

The defeat underscores SRH's ongoing struggle to maintain consistency in crunch situations. While the team has shown flashes of strong starts, the inability to sustain partnerships has cost them valuable opportunities.

As the tournament progresses, SRH will need to address these lapses and find ways to convert promising positions into match-winning performances, especially in tightly contested chases like this one.

Holder earns praise from Pujara for match-winning show vs PBKS

New Delhi

Jason Holder drew high praise from India's Test stalwart Cheteshwar Pujara after delivering a match-winning all-round performance in Gujarat Titans' four-wicket victory over Punjab Kings in IPL 2026.Pujara highlighted Holder's influence with both bat and ball, noting how the all-rounder has elevated Gujarat's balance in pressure situations. "The way Jason Holder has made an impact on this team has been impressive. His presence has taken the team to a different level," Pujara said, emphasising the significance of his contributions.Holder's defining spell of 4 for 24 played a crucial role in restricting Punjab Kings to 163 for 9 at the Narendra Modi Stadium. He removed key batters, including PBKS skipper Shreyas Iyer, as well as Nehal Wadhera, Marcus Stoinis and Xavier Bartlett, halting the opposition's recovery after an early collapse.Punjab Kings had looked in trouble at 47 for 5 before a counterattacking partnership between Suryansh Shedge and Marcus Stoinis revived their innings. However, Holder's timely breakthroughs ensured that the total remained within reach on a surface that offered some assistance to bowlers.In response, Gujarat Titans chased down the target in 19.5 overs in a tense finish. Sai Sudharsan anchored the innings with a steady 57, while Washington Sundar provided the finishing touch with an unbeaten 40, sealing the win with a six in the final over.

KKR stay alive, but top-order issues remain

CHENNAI

Kolkata Knight Riders kept their campaign alive with a crucial win over Sunrisers Hyderabad, ending the latter's five-match winning streak and moving to seven points. While the result offered relief, concerns around the top order particularly skipper Ajinkya Rahane's approach continue to linger.Young Angkrish Raghuvanshi led the charge with a composed 59 off 47 balls, while Rahane contributed 43 from 36 deliveries. On paper, it was a steady effort, but in the context of modern T20 demands, the tempo once again raised questions.Rahane, known for his calm and measured batting, has faced increasing scrutiny over his strike rate and intent. Earlier this season, he brushed aside criticism, asserting that his overall IPL numbers stand strong. However, his returns in IPL 2026 suggest otherwise. With a strike rate of 131.41, he remains among the slowest openers this season, second only to Ruturaj Gaikwad.The inconsistency in KKR's opening combinations has compounded the issue. The side has rotated between Rahane, Tim Seifert and Finn Allen, before promoting Sunil Narine to the top, reflecting a lack of clarity in approach.

Rahane's domestic form had hinted at a resurgence. He entered the IPL on the back of strong Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy campaigns, boasting strike rates above 160 in successive seasons. Yet, that fluency has not translated to the IPL stage this year.While his powerplay numbers since IPL 2023 — 619 runs at a strike rate of 159.5 — appear solid, the momentum often dips through the middle and death overs. In a format increasingly defined by sustained aggression, such fluctuations can prove costly.KKR remain in contention, with five matches left to play. A clean sweep could secure a playoff berth, but that would require sharper intent at the top. The spotlight, inevitably, remains on Rahane — and whether he can adapt before it impacts KKR's season decisively.

SRK hails Narine after 200-wicket milestone in KKR's win over SRH

MUMBAI

Shah Rukh Khan paid an emotional tribute to Sunil Narine after the all-rounder scripted history during Kolkata Knight Riders' dominant win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in IPL 2026.

Narine reached the landmark of 200 IPL wickets, becoming only the third bowler to achieve the feat and the first overseas player to do so for a single franchise. His spell of 2/31 played a key role in restricting SRH, helping KKR chase down the target comfortably.

Taking to social media, the KKR co-owner lauded Narine's long-standing contribution to the team. Calling him a "magician," Khan highlighted the spinner's 15-season journey, multiple titles and deep bond with the franchise. His post quickly gained traction among fans, celebrating Narine's legacy in the league.

KKR's victory was built on a strong bowling comeback after SRH's aggressive start. The spin duo, led by Narine, turned the tide before the batters sealed the chase with composure. Since joining KKR in 2012, Narine has been central to the team's success, often delivering breakthroughs in pressure situations. His mystery spin and consistency have made him one of the most influential players in IPL history.

As IPL 2026 progresses, Narine's milestone further cements his status as a modern T20 great, with his contributions continuing to shape KKR's campaign.

Dhoni stays back in Chennai for rehab, skips CSK's Delhi clash

CHENNAI

MS Dhoni has not travelled with Chennai Super Kings for their upcoming IPL 2026 fixture in New Delhi, opting to continue rehabilitation for a calf injury.The veteran wicketkeeper-batter remains unavailable for selection and is yet to feature in a single match this season. Team sources indicated that while Dhoni is not match-ready, there is optimism about his return later in the tournament. "He should be available at some stage," a senior franchise official said.CSK are scheduled to face Delhi Capitals on May 6, followed by a crucial run of fixtures, including games against Lucknow Super Giants, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Gujarat Titans. With five matches remaining, the team's playoff hopes remain alive, currently sitting mid-table with four wins from nine outings.

SURYANSH SHEDGE UNFAZED BY PBKS TOP-ORDER CLUTTER AFTER GT HEROICS

AHMEDABAD

Suryansh Shedge may have delivered one of the standout knocks of IPL 2026, but the Punjab Kings batter insists he is not caught up in competition for places, choosing instead to focus solely on the team's success.

Coming in with Punjab Kings reeling at 47 for 5 against Gujarat Titans, Shedge produced a composed yet impactful 57 off 29 balls to lift his side to a competitive 163 for 9. His innings not only steadied the collapse but also revived hopes of a contest that seemed to be slipping away rapidly.

Despite the significance of his effort, Shedge downplayed any notion of personal milestones or a "race" for recognition. "It's not a race. We're here to win the trophy. I just want to give my 100 per cent for the team," he said after the match, underlining a mature outlook early in his IPL career.

His approach at the crease reflected that clarity. Rather than resorting to reckless aggression under pressure, Shedge assessed conditions, absorbed the early challenge, and built his innings with patience. Against a disciplined bowling attack featuring Kagiso Rabada and Mohammed Siraj, he chose his moments carefully before accelerating.A key phase came during a 79-run partnership with Marcus Stoinis, which shifted momentum back towards PBKS. Shedge's decisive burst arrived in the 14th over, when he took apart Manav Suthar, collecting 26 runs in a single over to bring up his half-century in just 24 balls.

Even so, the youngster remained self-critical. He admitted that having got set, he should have carried on longer to push the total further.

Shubman Gill continues social media banter, teases PBKS after GT win

NEW DELHI

Shubman Gill once again made headlines beyond the field, continuing his now-familiar social media banter following Gujarat Titans' win over Punjab Kings in IPL 2026.

Soon after the victory in Ahmedabad, the GT skipper shared a picture alongside Washington Sundar and Sai Sudharsan, recreating a pose associated with PBKS. The post, captioned "Bas jeetna hai. Aava de," quickly drew attention online, sparking reactions from fans and adding to the growing narrative around Gill's playful digs at rival teams.

This is not an isolated instance. Gill has developed a pattern of posting subtle yet pointed messages after significant wins. Earlier in the season, following a victory over Chennai Super Kings at Chepauk, he shared a picture holding the iconic yellow whistle — a symbol synonymous with CSK's "Whistle Podu" culture — with the caption "Nandri Chennai." The gesture was widely interpreted as a cheeky nod to the opposition.

A similar moment followed GT's win against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, where Gill posted a picture featuring Virat Kohli with a caption that many saw as a clever twist on RCB's "Play Bold" tagline.

The trend has turned Gill's social media presence into a post-match extension of on-field rivalries — understated, but effective in generating buzz. While some fans enjoy the humour and confidence, others feel the line between banter and provocation is being tested. Either way, Gill appears aware of the impact.On the field, the contest against PBKS was far from straightforward. Gujarat Titans restricted Punjab Kings to 163 for 9 after reducing them to 47 for 5, with a strong bowling performance led by Jason Holder. A counterattack from Suryansh Shedge and support from Marcus Stoinis helped PBKS recover.In response, GT chased down the target with one ball to spare, finishing at 167 for 6. Sudharsan anchored the innings, while Sundar's unbeaten 40 proved decisive in a tense finish.Gill's post-match antics ensured the conversation didn't end with the final ball, keeping rivalries alive in the digital arena as well.

BCCI to tighten rules on 'girlfriend culture' in IPL: Report

NEW DELHI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India is set to introduce stricter guidelines in the IPL and international tours, amid concerns over players being frequently accompanied by their partners during the ongoing season.According to reports, the board is uneasy with several cricketers — including Hardik Pandya, Ishan Kishan, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Arshdeep Singh — being seen travelling with their rumoured partners in team environments during IPL 2026. Instances of partners accompanying players on team buses and staying in official hotels have reportedly prompted the board to act.A senior official indicated that the current trend, if left unchecked, could create larger issues in the future. The board is particularly concerned about logistical disruptions and potential risks to the league's integrity.

Fractured foot sidelines Ghosh as CSK face mounting injury concerns ahead

CSK pacer Ramakrishna Ghosh ruled out of IPL 2026 with injury

CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings have been dealt another setback in IPL 2026, with pacer Ramakrishna Ghosh ruled out of the remainder of the tournament after sustaining a fractured right foot.

The injury occurred during CSK's recent clash against Mumbai Indians at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, a match the home side won comfortably by eight wickets. Ghosh, who returned figures of 1 for 24 in his three overs, picked up the injury during the game, adding to the team's growing list of fitness concerns.Confirming the development, the franchise said in an official statement that the Maharashtra fast bowler would take no further part in the ongoing season. However, CSK have not yet announced a replacement for the injured pacer, leaving a gap in their bowling resources at a crucial stage of the tournament.

Ghosh's absence compounds an already challenging situation for the five-time champions. The team has been plagued by injuries this season, with players such as Ayush Mhatre, Khaleel Ahmed and Nathan Ellis also sidelined. The repeated disruptions have forced the management to frequently reshuffle combinations, impacting overall consistency.Adding to the concerns is the fitness of former captain MS Dhoni, who is currently recovering from a calf injury and is yet to feature in IPL 2026. His absence has been particularly significant given his experience and leadership, especially in tight match situations.Despite these setbacks, CSK have managed to stay competitive, thanks to contributions from both senior players and emerging talents. However, the loss of another pace option could test their squad depth as the league stage progresses.With the playoffs race heating up, CSK will need to act swiftly in naming a replacement and recalibrating their bowling attack. How effectively they manage these injury setbacks could play a decisive role in shaping their campaign this season.

City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd., No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at Manipal Media Network Limited Opp. Govt School, Kempalinganahalli, Near Kunigal Cross, Nelamangala TQ, Bangalore Rural Dist. -562123, Printed at No-7/2 plot no.CA-3/1,28(p)&29(p) Kapanoor 2nd Stage Industrial Area Kapnoor Village Kalaburagi -585104. Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080-41209042. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.